

Group says no hostage release

BEIRUT (AP) — A pro-Iranian underground group that holds at least two Americans said Wednesday it does not intend to release hostages and accused the United States of planning to free them by force. The statement was released by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation just hours after Iranian President Ruhollah Khomeini said he wants the issue of Westerners held in Lebanon to be solved (see page 2). "There is no intention to release hostages," the group said in an Arabic-language statement delivered to the independent Beirut newspaper Al-Nahar and a Western news agency. The handwritten statement was accompanied by a black-and-white picture of American hostages Joseph Chappo, acting commander of the American University of Beirut, and his wife, dated Sept. 12, 1984. "By monitoring American moves here and there and through pleading elements in regional American stations, and after trailing some spies, we have acquired accurate information that an American military operation is imminent against areas where the Americans believe hostages are held," the statement said. "We call upon all to watch out against this threat and beware and be on the alert against what America is hatching," the communique said.

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Conscription period may be cut

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is considering reducing the compulsory military service from two years to one, according to informed sources. Prime Minister Mudar Badran has informed the Lower House of Parliament that the government intends to amend the compulsory military service law so that some of the conscripts would be exempt from this service in return for a sum of money to be defined later and could be \$10,000, the sources said. The government has already begun preparing a draft military service law for discussion and approval by the Lower House of Parliament.

Boy returns after cornea surgery

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, president of the Friends of the Blind Society, Wednesday paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for facilitating the process of cornea transplant operation for Jordanian boy Ja'far Al Momani in West Germany. Receiving Momani at Queen Alia International Airport upon his return after successfully undergoing the operation, Prince Ra'd expressed joy for having the boy restore his sight and the appreciation for doctors who operated on him. Mohammad Al Momani, the father of the boy, conveyed profound gratitude to King Hussein, Prince Ra'd and the doctors who operated on his son.

Carter to visit Mideast next week

ATLANTA (Agencies) — Former President Jimmy Carter will pay a two-week visit to the Middle East, including Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the occupied West Bank and Israel, beginning March 11, a spokeswoman said Tuesday. Carter is expected to meet with heads of state, business and civic leaders and members of religious and academic communities, said spokeswoman Carrie Harmon. Carter will be accompanied by his wife, Rosalynn, and Kenneth Stein, director of the Middle Eastern Studies Programme at the Carter Centre of Emory University, during the trip.

Rival Shi'ites clash in Beirut suburbs

BEIRUT (R) — Rival groups fighting for the leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ite Muslims clashed Wednesday with machineguns and rockets in Beirut's southern suburbs. Security sources said the fighting between the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) was concentrated in the Ghobeiri, Shayeh and Monawad neighbourhoods.

Arafat ends visit to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat departed Wednesday after a three-day visit in which he briefed Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohammad on the Middle East. After laying a wreath at a military monument in Kuala Lumpur, Arafat flew by Malaysian government jet from the capital to Malacca, 150 kilometres to the south.

Sayeh visits Rabat

RABAT (R) — Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council has arrived in Rabat for talks with Moroccan parliamentary leaders, the official news agency MAP said. In an arrival statement reported by MAP he said that among the topics he would discuss was the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Militants kill 20 in Punjab attack

AMRITSAR (R) — At least 20 people were killed and 30 others injured when Sikh militants fired on a crowd at a marketplace in the Punjab town of Abohar, Wednesday, police said. The attackers also exploded two bombs in the busy market as people fled in panic, police added.

Illegal guest workers to get amnesty as incentive to leave

By Nermeen Munir
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — All guest workers who have been working in Jordan without proper documents will be allowed to leave the country without having to pay any penalty or face any legal action if they undertake not to return to the Kingdom, the minister of labour, Qaseem Obaidat, said Wednesday. "All illegal foreign labourers can leave the country now without paying fines or other legal proceedings but they have to sign an affidavit that they will not return," the minister told the Jordan Times.

The minister was responding to queries about what the government planned to do with a large number of guest workers — Arab and foreign — who have been living in Jordan for a number of years without proper work or residence permits. If the law is to be implemented in full, they face heavy penalties

for the duration of work and stay without the necessary documents issued by the ministries of labour and the interior.

Obaidat stressed that this amnesty would last for only two months during which all illegal guest workers should be able to find their way out of the country. "This amnesty will only last for two months from the day it is officially announced," Obaidat said.

The Jordan Times was approached by several illegal foreign workers who said they wanted to leave but were afraid they might have to pay huge amounts of money as penalties.

A Pakistani civil engineer who arrived in the Kingdom in 1982 on contract with a British contracting company in Aqaba but stayed on after his original sponsors left the Kingdom told the Jordan Times that he was hoping the ministry "would have pity on us."

"There has to be some way

for foreigners to go out... we appeal for an amnesty for foreigners who want to leave," said the Pakistani engineer, who requested anonymity. He said he had continued to work here after changing the "sponsor" and legalising his stay but the related documents had expired about 18 months back.

Officials at the Labour Ministry contacted by the Jordan Times earlier had refused the idea of a general amnesty and insisted that "we have not signed any international agreements which would guarantee such a procedure."

In some Western countries, an amnesty to illegal foreign labourers is considered an incentive to encourage them to leave the country without having to face legal action.

Obaidat told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the ministry would soon formally announce the amnesty. The minister did not give any figures or estimates for the number of guest workers who



Qaseem Obaidat

might be covered under the amnesty.

The main hurdle faced by illegal guest workers, according to observers, is that their residence permits have run out and cannot be renewed since residence permits are issued on the basis of work permits. The department of foreigners' affairs and borders of the Interior Ministry levies a fine of JD 30 per month or part thereof of illegal stay in the Kingdom. The Ministry of Labour has set a penalty ranging between JD 50 and JD 75 per month for every illegal alien found working for a Jordanian employer, but the employer will be liable for it.

King in London

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in London Wednesday from Paris on the second and final leg of a working visit to Europe.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said that King Hussein's talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other officials would focus on the developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the international arena, their effect on the Arab and bilateral relations.

The King Tuesday held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on Franco-Jordanian relations and international developments as well as Middle East issues with special focus on Soviet Jewish influx to Israel. The King is accompanied by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Call for joint action
In an interview published

Wednesday, King Hussein called for total cooperation among the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the Arab Maghreb Union to achieve the objectives of the Arab Nation. "The ACC, in its second year, will concentrate on executing what was agreed upon in the first year so that the Arab citizens will realise the positive results of all that has been agreed upon," King Hussein said in the interview, carried by French Radio of Al Mashaqq.

Noting that the latest ACC summit held in Amman last month was successful, that King said: "We have to do a lot so as to feel that we have fulfilled some of our duties towards the Arab Nation and the future of its generations."

King Hussein underlined the need to convene an Arab summit after making all necessary preparations.

Praising Franco-Jordanian friendship, King Hussein said that his talks with Mitterrand dealt with a number of issues including the Palestine cause.

King Hussein termed the French position toward the Arab-Israeli conflict as positive.

On the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, King Hussein said: "We are neither against the people's right to emigrate to wherever they want nor against human rights. We insist and demand respect for us in matters related to us and to the Arab people, particularly with regard to their right on their national soil."

King Hussein said that the move toward democracy in Jordan was serious and that attention was being directed toward organising "our lives within the framework of respect for the Constitution and preservation of freedoms."

Abu Odeh: National charter part of democratic transition

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's democratic transition needs the proposed national charter to guarantee a political pluralism that would unite forces towards development rather than engage in a destructive struggle over political domination, a senior aide to His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday.

Delivering a lecture at the Royal Cultural Centre, Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's political advisor, defended the proposed charter against assertions that the idea was unconstitutional and unnecessary for political action already guaranteed by the Constitution.

"The charter was not proposed so as to deprive any party from political action," Abu Odeh told an audience of nearly 500 people. "It was proposed to enhance political life and safeguard against having political forces paralyse and cancelling each other."

Abu Odeh argued that the state "would be paralysed and its forces scattered" in the absence of a common understanding of major divisive issues and challenges facing the Kingdom through the drafting of a charter endorsed by a plebiscite.

"Over 50 years, our society has not succeeded in maturing," he remarked. "We are entering a new phase that dictates that we learn democracy and understand its requirements."

In his lecture entitled "the parliament of the future," Abu Odeh outlined his view of the requirements for democratic dialogue:



Adnan Abu Odeh

— No one party or person has a monopoly on the truth;

— The respect of the opinions of others;

— Shunning personalisation and debating ideas and not individuals;

— Conducting dialogue based on information and facts;

— Accepting the principle of participation.

Furthermore, Abu Odeh said, "democracy has its unwritten rules. Parliament can paralyse the state and the executive branch in the process of carrying out its duties," he warned. "It is important to activate the role of the state, and Parliament should serve to complement the state in carrying out its duties."

The democratic transition, he explained, "was the product of the meeting, half-way, between the leadership and the peoples. It was a broad national decision."

Identifying handicaps that face Jordan's democratisation process, the former Royal Court minister said the society of the experience and Jordan's patriarchal system formed an obstacle for the process. He said that one of the requirements for democracy was liberal thinking which "is

unfamiliar to Jordanian society."

The democratic transition, he added, "came against the backdrop of economic and financial difficulties and tension produced by cultural and civilisational differences with the rest of the world."

He said positive elements include a consensus on democracy, the leadership's concern that it succeeds, an acceptance of the principle of participation, moderation, a progressive constitution, a conducive social structure, a national awareness of existing threats, a high education rate and a consensus over democracy's importance for national unity.

Foeding off criticism of his prominent role in former administrations, Abu Odeh, who served as cabinet members in several former governments, said: "We are talking about a new era. The state was going in the wrong direction but things have changed. You can hold me accountable in the future but what we did in the past... was a course followed by the whole state."

Responding to charges of taking part in opposing parties in previous governments, he said: "It is all a matter of perception. What you may see as an oppression, I would see as guidance to what the state then saw as right. We must abandon this vindictive spirit and the urge for vengeance. How can the state benefit from this vengeance?"

Responding to a question on what promoted the democratisation process, Abu Odeh said the Kingdom was already an Islamic state and "we are all Muslims in a Muslim state and practice Islam at all levels. That's as Islamic as we need to be."

Palestinian women demand protection against Israelis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Hundreds of Palestinian women Wednesday briefly took over offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the occupied territories to demand protection from Israeli repression, Palestinians said.

On the eve of International Women's Day, the women held sit-ins in the ICRC offices in Nablus and Bethlehem on the West Bank, and in Gaza, Khan Yunis and Rafah in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians said.

In Nablus, 300 women handed Red Cross representatives a request for international help to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"We call on the international community to provide protection to our people against daily Israeli repression," they said.

Palestinians said soldiers and border police fired plastic-coated bullets and tear-gas at 250 women after they emerged from the Red Cross office in Gaza City carrying placards demanding Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The underground leadership of the uprising had called for demonstrations Wednesday and Thursday to mark women's day.

Women demonstrators carried placards calling for an end to Soviet Jewish migration to Israel.

Meanwhile, masked Palestinians marched through the West Bank's largest market Wednesday to protest an easing of the restricted hours for Arab shops that was announced in a new leaflet from the uprising leadership.

Also Wednesday, Arab reports said a suspected collaborator was found hanged near his village in the occupied Gaza Strip, and the army said it demolished the West Bank home of a suspected uprising activist.

The march in the Nablus casbah represented a rare show of defiance against the uprising leadership, which has directed the nearly 27-month revolt through clandestinely produced leaflets.

A leaflet released Tuesday said shopkeepers could open their

stores from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (0700 to 1200 GMT) starting Saturday, two hours longer than they have been allowed to open since January 1988.

The limited hours are part of a campaign to undercut the Israeli economy by providing lower tax receipts and boycotting Israeli-made goods.

The marchers shouted through loudspeakers that "Nablus will be excluded from the decision" on store hours and that violators would be punished.

It was unclear how merchants in Nablus, the West Bank's largest town with 120,000 residents, would respond.

Israeli soldiers clashed with Palestinian stone-throwers on Wednesday in several parts of the Gaza Strip, wounding nine residents, hospital officials said.

An Israeli military court jailed four Gaza residents for life after convicting them of killing Arabs suspected of helping Israeli forces, Arab lawyers said. They were also convicted of being members of banned popular committees.

Israeli showdown postponed until Sunday

Inner cabinet fails to reach agreement on U.S. proposals; Peres serves ultimatum

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Ministers of the Labour Party Wednesday extended an ultimatum for quitting Israel's governing coalition, giving Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc four more days to approve American peace proposals.

Labour ministers announced the decision after Israel's inner cabinet failed to reach a decision on the U.S. proposals in a two-hour meeting and postponed a vote on the issue until Sunday.

If the proposals by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker are not approved at the second meeting, Labour's central committee will meet Monday with a recommendation that the party quit and topple the 15-month-old government, Labour officials said.

"If Shamir uses some delay trick Sunday, we will view it as a negative answer and respond as we have decided," Labour legislator Chaim Ramon warned.

Energy Minister Moshe Shaleh of Labour predicted Shamir's cabinet would fall, saying: "I don't think there is any possibility of getting Likud to change their minds. If the answer is negative from Likud, then this government has no continuation."

However, the extra time gives Shamir breathing room to negotiate a compromise with Labour's leader, Vice Premier Shimon Peres. Some Labour leaders are

hesitant about withdrawing from the government, notably Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Party's number two man.

"Maybe till Sunday reason would prevail in each camp," Rabin said during a tour of northern Israel.

Disagreements among the 10 cabinet ministers at the meeting again focused on the composition of the Palestinian delegation for the talks, which Likud members fear could end with Israel talking to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Peres told Israel Radio before the meeting that Likud was unrealistic to think it could exclude the PLO from peace efforts.

"Have they just realised the PLO is in the picture? Don't they know the PLO? Don't they know Egypt is in contact with the PLO? Don't they know what has happened up to now?" Peres told Israel Radio.

"Don't they know what has happened up to now? Only now have they discovered all that is going on around them?" Peres said.

Shamir did not respond immediately to Peres's comments, but Yossi Olmert, his appointee at the head of the government press office, told Reuters: "We are totally and firmly committed to the policy of no

negotiations with the PLO. And we believe there is a national consensus in Israel about that."

Public opinion polls show Israelis divided over whether to talk to the PLO. Some surveys suggest Israel would negotiate under certain conditions.

On Tuesday, Baker urged the Israeli government to approve his terms or run the risk of a dead end in peace efforts.

"Without a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians we can never move forward to peace," Baker said. "They are trying to resolve some fairly thorny problems that they have within their government," Baker told reporters. "I think they are working hard and in good faith to resolve those problems and we certainly hope they are successful."

Baker stopped just short of involving himself in the political dispute in Israel over his terms for the talks. But he left no doubt about the outcome he seeks from Israel.

"What we would like to see is for them to give us a positive answer so that we can move forward towards a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians."

The State Department spokeswoman, Margaret D. Tutwiler, meanwhile stressed that Baker would continue to press for Israeli and Palestinians to meet in Cairo.

France, Vatican pursue E. Beirut mediation

BEIRUT (R) — France and the Vatican were trying to stabilise an uneasy peace between rival Christian leaders vying for control of battered east Beirut, Lebanese political sources said Wednesday.

"The major political differences between (General Michel) Aoun and (Lebanese Forces militia leader Samir) Geagea are being negotiated by the French ambassador and the chargé d'affaires of the Vatican delegation in Beirut," one senior Christian source told Reuters.

The sources said French Ambassador Rene Ala met Aoun at the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda, while Papal Charge d'Affaires Giovanni Daniello had contacted Geagea.

Military sources said army engineers had cleared tonnes of earthwork fortifications with bulldozers and defused more than 300 landmines and 310 unexploded rockets and shells.

But despite cautious optimism, witnesses said LF militiamen were fortifying frontline positions and filling sand bags.

Ala also met Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir Tuesday to discuss the peace efforts, the sources added.

A threat to excommunicate Aoun and Geagea by Sfeir halted fierce tank, artillery and rocket battles Friday.

It was the 16th ceasefire in the inter-Christian fighting that erupted Jan. 31 after Aoun ordered the LF to disarm.

The battles killed 800 people, wounded 2,600 and devastated residential, industrial and commercial districts.

Security sources said hundreds of policemen were being grouped at barracks in and around the Christian half of Beirut ready to deploy between the rival forces.

They said the disengagement will take place when the grouping is completed and after the LF hands over police equipment it seized during the battles.

Christian political sources said local mediators were focusing their efforts on stabilising the ceasefire and restoring the situation in east Beirut to normal.

The senior source said a comprehensive peace agreement was being worked out but he did not provide details.

Another source said the LF was under pressure to withdraw its militiamen from east Beirut to barracks outside the capital as demanded by Aoun, while keeping its headquarters in the Karantina district.

The source said there was no firm answer from Geagea.

Najibullah claims control of all military facilities

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah said Wednesday his forces controlled all military bases in the country after crushing a coup attempt led by sacked Defence Minister Shaukat Tanai.

But Afghan Mujahideen guerrillas in Pakistan said Afghanistan's major Bagram air base, north of Kabul, was still controlled by mutinous troops and Tanai was probably in hiding there.

Other reports said Tanai fled to Pakistan with his family Wednesday.

Tanai, the battle-hardened defence minister linked to three coup attempts against the Soviet-backed government, flew aboard an Afghan military helicopter with his wife, two daughters and a son to the frontier town of Peshawar, sources quoted by the AP said on condition of not being identified by name.

Tanai's flight from Afghanistan came after repeated government claims the coup attempt launched Tuesday had been crushed, although officials acknowledged some fighting. Diplomatic and guerrilla sources said Wednesday fighting between rival Afghan military factions reportedly continued in Kabul, the capital, and two other cities, and that

mutineers controlled a key air base.

The conflicting reports on the severity of fighting could not immediately be confirmed.

The brave Afghan forces have taken complete control of all military headquarters," Najibullah said in a speech broadcast on official Kabul Radio.

"I assure you the situation is normal all around the country," he said. "The brave Afghan military forces are ready to repel and neutralise all treacherous plots."

Jets flown by mutinous pilots backing Tanai came to bomb Kabul Wednesday morning but were driven off by anti-aircraft fire, a Western diplomat said.

Afghanistan's ambassador to India told a news conference in New Delhi Wednesday that Tanai had fled Kabul for Bagrami, a town east of Kabul, where rebel troops still loyal to him were holding out.

"All the country is calm and quiet except some shooting between soldiers (in Bagrami)," Ahmad Sarwar said.

He said eight mutineer generals surrendered Wednesday morning to loyalist forces when they captured the heavily-fortified Defence Ministry.

The Pakistan-based Hezb-i

Islami guerrilla party said pro-Najibullah forces Wednesday rocketed rebel forces controlling Kabul airport. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

In an earlier speech broadcast on Kabul Radio, Najibullah said Wednesday morning his forces had gained control over three strongholds of the rebellious troops.

The Defence Ministry, army staff headquarters and a communications base used by Tanai's supporters were now under full control of government troops, he said.

Radio Kabul Wednesday also accused a second high-ranking ruling party member of involvement in the coup attempt. It said Asadullah Sarwari, a former interior minister, was in hiding with Tanai.

Within hours after Afghan air force planes began bombing the presidential palace and tanks moved into the capital streets Tuesday, Hezb-i-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar offered his support to the coup attempt.

Also Wednesday, three Afghan brigadier generals flew a transport plane to the Pakistan border and surrendered, said guerrilla sources.

Hostage issue will be solved, Rafsanjani says

NICOSIA (AP) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran said Wednesday that the problem of the Western hostages held in Lebanon will be solved, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (INRA) reported.

"My feeling is that the issue of the hostages is moving toward a solution," Rafsanjani was quoted as saying.

Rafsanjani said that Iran was not directly linked to the hostage issue, but had pledged to use Iran's influence to seek their freedom.

"I and my friends would like the issue to be settled since the U.S. and others are exploiting the matter as a means for branding the Lebanese as terrorists and so they are not seriously seeking a solution," he said at a press conference. His statements were carried by INRA, monitored in Nicosia.

He repeated Iran's demands that Western nations help trade Iranians missing in Lebanon and "also reduce their mischievous acts." He did not specify what acts, but it is the term habitually used for what Tehran sees as meddling in Iranian and regional affairs.

Eighteen Westerners are missing in Lebanon, most believed held by Shi'ite Muslim groups loyal to Tehran. The hostages include eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

The longest held is American journalist Terry Anderson, who will mark his fifth year in captivity on March 16.

Rafsanjani's statements followed a series of editorials in English-language papers in Tehran saying the hostages should be freed without preconditions because they were being used as anti-Islamic propaganda.

There have also been several newspaper reports that the United States and Iran were negotiating over the fate of the hostages, which Washington has denied.

Rafsanjani also said there were no direct talks on the hostages. "There have been no negotiations with the U.S. and we only have received messages on this

issue by Western politicians who have come to Iran," Rafsanjani said.

The president said the only official talks between the two nations are those carried out under the U.S.-Iran claims tribunal in the Netherlands, under the auspices of the International Court of Justice. The special tribunal is sorting out billions of dollars in claims from contracts broken in the wake of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

But he noted that "they themselves have established contacts with regional governments."

That was an apparent reference to U.S. contacts with Syria, which has facilitated past hostage releases. Diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital of Damascus have said the U.S. used Syria as an intermediary with Tehran.

Rafsanjani's brother Mahmoud Hashemi, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official, was in Damascus this week for meetings with the Syrian Foreign Minister, Farouk Al Sharaa.

A Syrian source said the talks were to coordinate policy on getting the hostages released and that Hashemi had arrived from Beirut, where he also discussed the hostage issue with senior Shi'ite Muslim clergy.

The Tehran Times in an editorial Tuesday denied that the visit was related to the hostages, noting that the two governments consult regularly on regional issues.

At his press conference, Rafsanjani added, "the issue of the hostages does not concern us at all. Of course, the U.S. and Britain have time and again requested us to use our influence in Lebanon for the release of the hostages."

Rafsanjani referred to recent statements in Beirut by Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah and to the Tehran newspaper statements as indicating there was new hope on the issue.

In a Feb. 23 sermon in Beirut Fadlallah said the issue was being exploited to distort Islam's image and called for a humanitarian approach to freeing them.

Fadlallah, spiritual guide for the Iranian-financed Hizbollah, or Party of God, made the remarks after returning from a visit to Tehran. Extremist factions within Hizbollah are believed holding most of the hostages.

On Tuesday the Tehran Times, for the second time in as many weeks, said the hostages should go free without preconditions. In the past, the paper has reflected Rafsanjani's thinking.

"Our own assessment indicates that this thorny issue can be sorted out in the near future in a sincere spirit by sincere people," the paper said, adding, "1990 can and will be the last year of the captivity of these hostages."

It said an effort was under way to free the hostages because "Islam in no way allows or condones the idea that people should be taken or held hostage."

The missing Iranians Rafsanjani referred to at his press conference disappeared at a check point in north Lebanon in 1982. The four — a diplomat, military commander, journalist, and their Lebanese Shi'ite driver who held an Iranian passport — are believed murdered.

Rafsanjani has repeatedly referred to them in his statements about the hostages, including a press conference in Tehran in October 1989 when he called on all hostage takers in Lebanon to release all their captives.

At that time Rafsanjani also said Iran would help secure the release of the hostages if the United States released billions of dollars in Iranian assets frozen in U.S. banks since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The U.S. broke ties with Iran and froze its assets in the U.S. when radicals seized the U.S. embassy and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Rafsanjani is believed eager to release the hostages because they are an impediment to better ties with the West. He seeks Western financing and technology to build Iran's weak economy.

Qadhafi ridicules work of parliament

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has ridiculed the work of the country's parliament, saying he could not believe its proposals reflected the true opinions of the Libyan people.

Qadhafi, proclaimed Libya's infallible leader by the law-makers earlier this week, criticised corruption, favouritism, nepotism and abuse of influence throughout the administration.

"You won't get to paradise the way you are going... If we carry on like this, we will be colonised again," he said Tuesday night referring to Libya's former colonial ruler Italy.

The General People's Congress, which is meant to formulate policy based on the views of local assemblies, has demanded lower taxes and free health care, education and other services from government departments.

"As the Americans say, there's no escape from death and taxes. I don't believe the Libyan people don't understand these things, for them to say there shouldn't be taxes," Qadhafi said.

Two secretaries (ministers) resigned Tuesday after dismissing the demands as unrealistic and irresponsible because past spending had already stretched the country's finances.

Qadhafi took the administration's side in the conflict but blamed the people who converted the views of the local assemblies, known as Basic People's Congresses, into resolutions.

"This is not what the people said. It's inconceivable that they should show such ignorance... These are the words of certain people," he added.

Local assemblies in several of the country's provinces had proposed that the rate of income tax for the highest income bracket should be cut to 15 per cent. The present rate is more than 60 per cent.

"So you're all rich, are you? Thank God there's no one poor. Otherwise you would be saying, 'raise the taxes, raise the duties.' I can't believe people said such ridiculous things," Qadhafi said.

He particularly mocked the assemblies in Zouara province for suggesting the government both abolish and maintain stamp duty. "You may well laugh. It's farcical," he said.

The dispute over demands for free health, education and other services led to a heated constitutional debate Monday because in theory the Congress does not have the power to amend the decisions of the local assemblies.

Transport Secretary Mubarak Al Shamekhi, in his resignation speech, brought up the same point for public transport. Bus companies were charging passengers half the real costs but the Congress never said how they should cover the rest, he said.

Higher Education Secretary Ahmad Ibrahim also resigned after the Congress criticised the performance of his department. Both men said they refused to bow to pressure to do people favours or bend the rules.

Congress Secretary (Speaker) Muflih Al Usta Omar said resignation was a new phenomenon in the Congress and it was up to the members to decide whether the ministers should stay or go.

Civil servants should move around to different towns at regular intervals so they could not help their friends and relatives, people should report any instances of corruption directly to the police, and the newspapers should publish corruption cases.

U.S. aides claim Libya producing chemical arms

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say Libya is now producing limited amounts of mustard and nerve gases useable as chemical weapons.

The Rabta Plant 96 kilometres south of Tripoli also is now capable of producing canisters to carry the chemicals to selected targets, the officials said Tuesday night on condition that they not be identified.

The officials said the Libyans over several months had kept the assembly line active but only toward the end of last year achieved what one official called a "certain operational capability" that it did not have before.

"They haven't got enough to go into full production, but they can keep producing at this level," one of the officials said.

Libya has consistently denied that it was building a plant to produce chemical weapons, and has said the Rabta plant was for pharmaceuticals.

West German politicians said a month ago that Libya had produced enough gas for 1,000 artillery shells. After that, U.S. officials said the Rabta plant had

been producing "very small" quantities of chemicals for about a year.

Tuesday's disclosure was that production had increased.

Mustard gas, used in World War I, is an extremely irritating gas that blisters the skin. Nerve gases, developed by Nazi Germany in World War II but never used, kill by disabling the normal transmission of nerve impulses.

There was no official comment from the State Department. But spokesman Mark Dillon, without confirming Libya's resurgent chemical weapons programme, said: "We remain seriously concerned about the Rabta weapons facility."

We have continuously taken various efforts to assure that Libya and other proliferators do not succeed in achieving full-scale weapons production."

At a White House state dinner Tuesday night, Secretary of State James Baker declined to discuss the Libyan plant with reporters, saying, "it's classified."

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said, "I don't know anything about it."

Israelis favour harsher interrogation for Arabs

TEL AVIV (R) — Many Israelis believe the security police should be allowed to be used interrogation methods on Palestinians that would be illegal on Jews, an opinion poll published Wednesday said.

The survey found 51 per cent of the 1,066 people polled approved the Shin Bet internal security police using tougher interrogation methods for Palestinians than Jews while 45 per cent were opposed.

A majority of respondents supported blowing up the homes of Palestinians suspected of security offences before they have been tried and want press coverage of the 27-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation curtailed.

Destruction of houses was approved by 49 per cent, while 47 per cent were opposed.

More than 60 per cent of those polled wanted to ban publication of stories or photographs showing soldiers mistreating Arabs, while only 34 per cent opposed the

fighting of censorship.

The findings of the Dahaf Institute poll carried out last month were in keeping with a trend in previous surveys towards limiting democracy.

In a survey last May, 74 per cent of respondents said Israel should implement harsher measures against the uprising, and almost half said the Jewish state was too democratic.

Israeli soldiers and civilians have killed at least 626 Palestinians in the uprising.

The army has demolished or sealed the homes used by hundreds of suspects.

In a separate development Israeli newspapers assailed the government Tuesday for censoring news reports about Soviet Jewish immigrants.

But editorialists in three Hebrew-language newspapers suggested the clampdown was prompted more by the loose lips of Israeli politicians than a need for security.

Top Turkish journalist shot dead

ISTANBUL (R) — A top Turkish journalist, a vociferous critic of political extremism and Muslim fundamentalism, was shot dead Wednesday in what appeared to be a political assassination.

Cetin Emec, a board member and columnist of the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet, was shot seven times by at least two gunmen as he left his Istanbul home for work, police said.

The cold-blooded killing of Emec, 55, follows a similar murder of Turkey's law association president, Muzaffer Aksoy, in Ankara last January.

Prominent journalists and academics were targets during political extremism which hit Turkey in the late 1970s. It led to a coup in 1980 and three years of harsh military rule.

"I saw at least two men aged about 25 approach Mr. Emec's car as he was about to leave. I saw them shooting at him. They were not wearing masks," Mrs. Muzaffer Yazar, who lives opposite Emec's apartment near the Bosphorus waterway, told Reuters.

Her husband, Rasit, said: "I heard nine shots. This is a disaster. Some people are trying to create chaos like our yesterday."

Emec's driver was also shot dead as he stood beside the car. Police at the scene, in the wealthy tree-lined residential district of Sadiye on the Asian side of Istanbul, said they had no immediate clue to the identities of the gunmen.

Emec had written several recent columns on political violence for Hurriyet, Turkey's largest selling newspaper and a staunch advocate of the mainly Muslim country's secular ideals.

"Socio-economic imbalances, wide differences in religious beliefs and poverty are causing people to take part in terrorist acts," he wrote in his last article, published Wednesday.

Emec and his driver, Ali Sinan Ercan, were rushed to Istanbul's Tuztepe Hospital but were dead on arrival. Three bullets hit Emec's heart. Ercan was shot from behind.

Blood drenched the back seat of Emec's Ford Falcon car and a copy of his newspaper. A side window was shattered by bullets.

"We have seen this film before," said former Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who led coalition governments in the 1970s and now heads the opposition centre-right True Path Party.

"Turkey has neither the time nor the patience to watch this film again... The masks of the people perpetrating this latest attack must be removed immediately," he told reporters.

"It is obvious we are facing an act of terrorism planned in a way to involve international relations as well," Erdal Inonu, leader of the opposition Social Democrat Populist Party, said.

"Emec and Aksoy were leaders in efforts to protect secularism... it is not hard to guess that behind these two acts is a terrorist plan aimed at overthrowing secularism in Turkey," he said.

Three Turkish journalists from the popular Istanbul-based daily, Gazete, now closed, were shot in their offices last November. Two of them died later.

In one of the worst examples of political extremism in the turbulent 1970s, top journalist, Abdilpekci, was gunned down in Istanbul in 1979.

Ipekci was chief columnist for the liberal daily Milliyet and, like Emec, a leading defender of democracy.

Mehmet Ali Agca, later jailed in Italy for shooting Pope John Paul II in the Vatican square in May, 1981, confessed to gunning down Ipekci but escaped before he was sentenced to death.

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"Turkey has neither the time nor the patience to watch this film

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

| JORDAN TELEVISION | |
|--|---|
| Tel: 773111-19 | |
| PROGRAMME ONE | |
| 15:30 | Koran |
| 15:40 | Programme review |
| 15:50 | Children programme |
| 17:10 | Book of Adventure |
| 18:00 | News for the Deaf |
| 18:20 | Religious programme |
| 19:00 | Health programme |
| 19:40 | Programme review |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | Local series |
| 21:00 | Programme review |
| 21:30 | Local programme |
| 22:00 | Arabic film |
| 22:30 | News in Arabic |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 18:00 | Tel Pere Tel Film |
| 18:30 | La Chance aux chansons |
| 19:00 | News in French |
| 19:15 | Documentary |
| 19:30 | News in Hebrew |
| 19:45 | Varieties |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | A Different World |
| 21:00 | NBA Basketball |
| 21:30 | News in English |
| 22:00 | Feature film: "All the President's Men" |
| PRAYER TIMES | |
| 06:30 | Fajr |
| 07:30 | (Sunrise) Duha |
| 11:40 | Dhuhr |
| 15:00 | 'Asr |
| 17:40 | Maghrib |
| 18:30 | 'Isha |
| CHURCHES | |
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swartholm Tel: 810740 | |
| Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. | |
| St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440. | |
| De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 | |
| Terrestrial Church Tel. 623666 | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541. | |
| Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. | |
| Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713311. | |
| Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713361. | |
| St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151. | |
| Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 68376. | |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285. | |
| The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 64932. | |
| WEATHER | |
| Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. | |
| It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy with expected scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea. | |
| Min./max. temp. | |
| Amman | 5/11 |
| Aqaba | 9/20 |
| Deserts | 4/12 |
| Jordan Valley | 11/19 |
| Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 52 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent. | |

| USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| NIGHT DUTY | |
| AMMAN: | |
| Dr. Hisham Kan'an | 790286 |
| Dr. Khalil Abdel Qader | 783392 |
| Dr. Munther Farini | 776258 |
| Dr. Walid Hani | 675485 |
| First pharmacy | 691222 |
| Ferdous pharmacy | 778336 |
| Al Asana pharmacy | 637055 |
| Natroukh pharmacy | 623672 |
| Al Salam pharmacy | 636730 |
| Yacoub pharmacy | 644945 |
| Shamsi pharmacy | 637660 |
| Public Security Department | 630321 |
| Hotel Complaints | 605800 |
| Prior Complaints | 601176 |
| Water and Sewerage | |
| Complaints | 897467 |
| Amman Municipality | |
| Complaints | 787111 |
| Telephone Information (directory assistance) | 121 |
| Overseas Calls | 010230 |
| Central Amman Telephone | 62101 |
| Repairs | 661101 |
| Abdullah Telephone Repair | 661101 |
| Jordan Television | 773111 |
| Radio Jordan | 774111 |
| Radio Authority | 680100 |
| Jordan Electricity Authority | 815615 |
| Electric Power Company | 636381 |
| RJ Flight Information | 08-53200 |
| Queen Alia Intl. Airport | 08-53200 |
| HOSPITALS | |
| AMMAN: | |
| Hassan Medical Centre | 813813/32 |
| Kheikh Maternity, J. Amn. | 644281/6 |
| Al-Khish Maternity, J. Amn. | 624412/2 |
| Jabal Amman Maternity | 623602 |
| Mallat, J. Amman | 636140 |
| Palestine, Shamsi | 664171/4 |
| Shamsi Hospital | 669131 |
| University Hospital | 845945 |
| Al-Muhammar Hospital | 667227/9 |
| The Islamic, Abdali | 660127/7 |
| Al-Ahli, Abdali | 664164/6 |
| Indian, Al-Muhammar | 777101/3 |
| Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf | 775111/26 |
| Amn, Marka | 891611/15 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 602240/50 |
| Amal Hospital | 614155 |
| ZARQA: | |
| Zarqa Govt. Hospital | (09)983323 |
| Zarqa National Hospital | (09)991071 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | (09)986732 |
| IBRD: | |
| Prince Bessan Hospital | (02)273555 |
| Greek Catholic Hospital | (02)272775 |
| Al Nafec Hospital | (02)247100 |
| AQABA: | |
| Floures Haya Hospital | (03)314111 |
| FOR THE TRAVELLER | |
| QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | |
| This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. | |
| ARRIVALS | |
| Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | |
| 09:00 | Damascus (RJ) |
| 09:15 | Aqaba (RJ) |
| 09:30 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 09:45 | Kuwait (RJ) |
| 10:00 | New Delhi (RJ) |
| 11:20 | Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Kuwait (RJ) |
| 16:15 | London (RJ) |
| 16:30 | Larnaca (RJ) |
| 17:00 | Baghdad (RJ) |
| 17:00 | New York, Amsterdam (RJ) |
| 18:10 | Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) |
| 18:30 | Bangkok (RJ) |
| 19:45 | Rome (RJ) |
| Other Flights (Terminal 2) | |
| 09:10 | Sanaa (LA) |
| 12:25 | Riyadh (SV) |
| 13:30 | Baghdad (LA) |
| 13:40 | Kuwait (KU) |
| 14:05 | Muscat, Bahrain (GF) |
| 14:30 | Dhahran (TK) |
| 15:30 | Doha (EK) |
| 15:30 | Amsterdam (KL) |
| 19:25 | Frankfurt (LH) |
| 20:10 | Zurich, Larnaca (SR) |
| 21:05 | Cairo (MS) |
| 00:35 | London (BA) |
| DEPARTURES | |
| Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | |
| 07:00 | Aqaba (RJ) |
| 07:15 | Rome (RJ) |
| 07:30 | Rome, London (RJ) |
| 12:15 | Paris (RJ) |
| 12:30 | Larnaca (RJ) |
| 13:40 | Baghdad (RJ) |
| 19:40 | Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 20:30 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 20:30 | Bahrain, Doha (RJ) |
| 20:45 | Doha, Muscat (RJ) |
| 21:15 | Bangkok (RJ) |
| Other Flights (Terminal 2) | |
| 09:10 | Sanaa (LA) |
| 12:25 | Riyadh (SV) |
| 13:30 | Baghdad (LA) |
| 13:40 | Kuwait (KU) |
| 14:05 | Muscat, Bahrain (GF) |
| 14:30 | Dhahran (TK) |
| 15:30 | Doha (EK) |
| 15:30 | Amsterdam (KL) |
| 19:25 | Frankfurt (LH) |
| 20:10 | Zurich, Larnaca (SR) |
| 21:05 | Cairo (MS) |
| 00:35 | London (BA |

Human rights organisation welcomes Jordanian moves

By Sara Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A positive and open debate is underway on protection of human rights in Jordan in light of the democratisation process that was launched with last November's parliamentary elections, according to Amnesty International's (AI) Secretary-General Ian Martin. Martin said that a more open debate concerning the protection of human rights was evident and more encouraging than in previous years.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Martin, who was concluding a visit to Jordan after discussing human rights issues with government and parliamentary officials, said the reaction from the government as well as Parliament was very positive.

He expressed hope that the ongoing debate would result in the "best possible legislation for future protection of human rights."

"Democratisation obviously brings about the possibility of a much more vigorous debate on the protection of human rights," Martin said, commenting on the Jordanian experience.

He welcomed the government's moves to abolish martial law and to review defence regulations.

"We also welcome the government's proposal to repeal the

anti-Communism law because we are opposed to any legislation which results in the imprisonment of people who peacefully express their political views," Martin said.

He explained that his London-based organisation was concerned that there have been individuals who were imprisoned under martial law, regarded as prisoners of conscience, and other political detainees whom the organisation feels have not had a fair trial.

He added that Amnesty International was not calling for the immediate release of political prisoners, who number about 40 following the last royal pardon, but that prisoners should have the right to a fair trial. A major feature of martial law courts was that the accused had no right to appeal.

The AI delegation did not come to Jordan on a fact-finding mission but to put forward recommendations on how to fully safeguard human rights, according to Martin.

"We would like to see a situation where no one will be detained without a fair trial and a legal framework in which lawyers and relatives have access to anyone who has been arrested," he said.

During his week-long stay here the AI delegation, which besides Martin includes Claudio Cordone

and Mohammad Badawi met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Minister of Interior Salem Masa'adeh, other officials from the Ministry of Interior, the head of the Intelligence Department and speakers and members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament. Martin described the discussions as "constructive."

The delegation also visited the Intelligence Department's detention Centre and Swaga prison, where political prisoners are held.

Martin said he had made a request to the government during this visit to legally register an AI chapter in Jordan.

"The reaction was encouraging," Martin said.

He noted that individuals in Jordan who in the past showed interest in working for prisoners in other countries still continue to do so (AI groups work against human rights violations in countries other than theirs). "Hopefully we will be able to form AI groups in Jordan soon," Martin said.

The 29-year-old Amnesty International, which has groups in more than 60 countries, does not cover all forms of human rights. The organisation concentrates mostly on "prisoners of conscience" who are detained for peacefully expressing their views and

Regent meets Amnesty chief



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — Ian Martin, secretary general of the international human rights organisation Amnesty International Wednesday briefed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on the outcome of his meetings with Jordanian officials, his visits to the Swaga prison and his impressions about the government's effort to ensure public freedoms and human rights for Jordanian citizens.

Prince Hassan stressed Jordan's keenness on promoting democracy and protecting public and human rights.

The Regent paid tribute to Amnesty International's continued endeavours and stressed the need for initiating a

political prisoners who had been accused of using violence and not given a fair and prompt trial.

AI also campaigns against torture and ill-treatment of any prisoner, political or criminal, and against the death penalty. It also works against the killings of innocent people.

Martin explained that other forms of human rights violations cannot be taken up by AI because "we devote our limited resources to addressing these issues in every single country in the world where those rights are violated — a very big job for one non-government organisation."

Cabinet orders priority for local contractors, workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — All projects in the country financed by the Jordanian treasury or through local loans can only be awarded to local contractors. Contractors can only employ Jordanian workers and cannot give sub-contractors for these projects to non-Jordanian contractors regardless of the reasons, according to a government decision announced here Wednesday.

The decision, made in a Council of Ministers statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the step was taken due to the current situation in the Jordanian labour market. The decision is intended to open employment doors to local workers and to help local contractors.

According to the statement, local contractors carrying out government-financed projects could in certain cases employ non-Jordanians if the type of work makes it necessary and only after an approval from the Ministry of Labour. The statement said that a committee will be set up to settle the question of whether a certain job requires foreign labour or not. The committee will include minister of public works and housing, his secretary-general,

the secretary-general of the Ministry of Labour, the director of the government's tenders department, the president of the Jordan Contractors Association and a representative of the employers.

If financing for a project comes from an external source, non-Jordanian contractors could be awarded the work consortium with Jordanian contractors or if necessary without a Jordanian partner. But the project has to have 70 per cent of the workforce Jordanian and that an assessment of the volume of work should be first conducted by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the statement said. It said that non-Jordanian overskilled workers could not be employed on such projects.

The statement, which was circulated to all government departments, public organisations and municipalities said that a heavy fine will be imposed on all violators.

In a separate statement, the government established a special committee chaired by Minister of Interior Salem Masa'adeh to deal with the adverse results of poor rainfall in the governorates

of Karak, Tafleh and Maan. The statement said that this season's shortage of rain in these areas has caused hardships for local residents. According to the statement, the committee includes ministers of social development, public works and housing, finance, labour, municipal and rural affairs, water and irrigation and the governors of Karak, Maan and Tafleh.

The cabinet in another statement endorsed agreements passed last month by the leaders of the four-member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). The 11 agreements cover cooperation in science and technology, planning, industry, energy and oil, tourism, local government affairs, meteorology, health, air transport and civil aviation, land transport and religious affairs.

The cabinet also formed Jordan's delegation to the Arab League council's 93rd meeting due to open in Tunis Saturday. The delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem will include several Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and Jordan's ambassador to the Arab League.

Bilal Al Sham review 'serves youth, laymen'

By Mariam M. Shabib
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The need for contemporary youth, educators and laymen to learn from the accomplishments and failures inherent in the history of Bilal Al Sham was stressed by historians, academics and educators alike as the fifth international conference on the history of Bilal Al Sham came to an end Wednesday evening.

Participants at the four-day conference presented over 50 research papers covering subjects as diverse as social, artistic, military, religious, agricultural, economic and political developments in the Abbasid period, which ranged from 750 A.D. to 1059 A.D.

While no political and economic union presently exists between the modern states that were historically thought of as Bilal Al Sham, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, all participants agreed that "ethnically, geographically and historically the area is 'one unit'."

"History can never be fully separated from the present because it is our historical experiences which have shaped us," said renowned Arab historian Ihsan Abbas.

"What we need to do is make our history a lesson for future thought. That does not mean we do as our ancestors did; it means we must learn from our past mistakes and successes," he added.

While some participants like American Robert Schick of American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) felt that very little of what was being discussed at the conference was applicable to the "Bilal Al Sham in 1990," others felt differently.

According to Schick, "Bilal Al Sham was always a geographical and cultural union, it was never a political and economic union as such, and in 1990 it is just as easy for Amman and Baghdad to have an economic and political union

as Amman and Aleppo."

"Since we are covering relatively limited historical periods at these seminars the subject matter may not be of any particular interest to people trying to find links with the Bilal Al Sham in 1000 A.D. and in 1990."

Historian Abbas said the consecutive conferences on Bilal Al Sham served as a good base to "rewrite the history of Bilal Al Sham."

"So many new findings are being presented at these conferences and they have to be included in our history books," he said. "I don't mean the history books for the academics but for schoolchildren and laymen."

Abbas said His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had asked him to use the material presented at the conferences, which began in 1974, to make additions and modifications in the history texts and books on Bilal Al Sham.

"The Crown Prince is very concerned because really it is of vital importance that the laymen are exposed to the enlightened aspects of their own history and culture," Abbas said.

"Our young people are not really very aware of their past in relation to the Western culture. Knowing about their region's history will give them a base to which they can compare instead of just accepting foreign cultures and philosophies," he added. He said that while he did not propagate that the history of Bilal Al Sham was a "history of angels" he did say that "many parts of our history reflect enlightenment and innovation."

Abbas added that a mistake frequently made by some students and laymen and even some academics was that they "relish some of the glories of our past without seeing the negative aspects and without considering that they should work to make this part of the world a centre for learning, inventions and enlightenment once again."

"That should be the message our history teaches us," he said.

JWA thanks Badran

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Jordan Writers Association (JWA) met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday and expressed the association's appreciation for the government's cancellation of a 1987 government decision to dissolve the JWA and for the government's measures to ensure public freedoms.

"The government's reversal of the 1987 decision is considered a practical step towards paving the way for literary creativity in the

country," JWA President Abdul Rahim Omar said at the meeting. He said Badran's government has "now opened the way for freedom of expression and freedom of the press."

Omar briefed Badran on the JWA status and its future plans for promoting the cultural and literary movement in the Kingdom.

Badran wished the 300-member JWA success in its endeavours and pledged support for the association.

International day highlights importance of women's role

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — International Women's Day is celebrated Thursday throughout the world. In Jordan, lectures and educational programmes are planned on the occasion with a view to bringing about increased awareness of the importance of women's participation in society.

Many Jordanian women, working with institutions or in their personal capacity, assist Jordanian women to perform their rightful role in society through social, economic, cultural and political work.

Haifa Bashir, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, says she aims to elevate the standard of women so that women can participate more effectively in society. "Our main goal is directed mostly towards education where we try to eliminate the number of illiterates, give lessons and train women for future jobs," she told the Jordan Times.

Although a good number of females still tend to drop out of school early to get married, Bashir feels that Jordanian women have come a long way

in education. At least 42 per cent of university students are female, she noted. In the last five years, the number of males accepted has been lower than females, she added.

Huda Fakhoury, who is also involved in efforts to help women and writes articles supporting women's participation in national life, does not feel so optimistic. She says that many females leave school by the sixth grade, and "get married and have children and forget about education and social life." And, Fakhoury points out, many of these women are unaware that they do have rights.

Fakhoury suggests that women should get together as a group to reach the roots of the problem: illiteracy, poverty, illness and lack of proper cultural orientation. Although there are about 60,000 women in Jordan's labour force, "they are not beneficial to the illiterates of Jordan because they are unaware of the real problem," according to Fakhoury.

Bashir agrees. "The federation seeks ways to improve the economic and social situation of the professional as well as unqualified women through occupational training program-

mes of various types," she said.

Fakhoury says that apart from such programmes, "it is now time to take big steps and have a sort of revolution by having more women participate in social work and working alongside men to change laws for women."

In light of the high rate of unemployment in Jordan, women are facing obstacles, more so than men, and in the government sector there is a decline of women staff, Bashir says.

According to Fakhoury, "the problems of society cannot be separated from the problems of women because everyone suffers from difficult conditions. But women carry double the burden because all laws are biased against women. They have to fight hard to ensure their full rights to education, work, advancement and a long paid maternity leave and child support to suit their living conditions."

"The purpose of asking for women's rights is to develop society, men and women, and to establish justice and equality to allow for the full potential of the women to be put in the service of building society as a whole," Fakhoury said.

Students stage protest against Soviet influx

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nearly 1,000 Islamist students Wednesday staged a two-hour march at the University of Jordan to protest the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and the occupied territories.

Holding aloft banners denouncing peace moves, demonstrators toured the campus in organised successive rows, chanting slogans that called for jihad (holy war), as the only viable means to liberate Palestine.

"Jihad is our path... open the frontiers (the demarcation line dividing Jordan and the occupied territories)," read one of the banners.

"We say it loud, we are the followers of Hamas (the Islamic movement in the occupied Gaza Strip)," one of the demonstrators shouted into a loud speaker.

The participants also lashed out at the Soviet Union and the United States for their "biased stands on the Middle East conflict." One banner read "Palestine is a Muslim state" as opposed to Arab, an indication of disapproval of the current peace moves pursued by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which groups almost all Palestinian political, secular and nationalist affiliations.

Segregated into female and male sections, the march was led by male students wearing "kaffiyehs", the traditional Arab headress and trailed by organised rows of veiled women.

The Islamists' march came just one week after a similar march organised by leftist students, according to Dr. Yussef Siyam, the university's dean of students affairs who walked on the fringes of the "unofficial" march.

"Neither of the two marches had been previously approved by the university's administration," Siyam told the Jordan Times.

He said that the university, which has nearly 18,000 students, would have approved the marches if the organisers had made an official request.

Siyam expressed the university's concern over potential disruption of the academic process in the absence of coordination between the students and the administration.

"Because the organisers are of different political leanings, such marches are likely to lead to friction amongst various trends," said Siyam.

Siyam said that political activities, marches and debates have increased markedly since the present Parliament was elected, referring to growing political influence on the campus by parliamentary group-

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent cables good wishes to Assad

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday sent a cable of good wishes to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on his country's national day. The Regent wished the president continued health and happiness and further progress for the Syrian people.

Arar to attend Cairo conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar will go to Cairo Thursday to take part in a general conference of African parliaments due to open Saturday. Arar will be accompanied to the five-day meetings by a delegation of six deputies.

Irbid workers end sit-in

IRBID (Petra) — A union for land transport and mechanical workers in Irbid Governorate Wednesday decided to end a sit-in which began Tuesday in support for their demand to hold union elections and for better working conditions. Union members said that they were ending the sit-in after promises were given to them by the governor and other officials that a general meeting would be held within 10 days so that all concerned parties can air their views and reach a settlement.

Kabarti invited to Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Kabarti has received an invitation from his Syrian counterpart to visit Syria in order to discuss executive measures needed to bolster touristic cooperation. The invitation was conveyed by the Syrian ambassador to Jordan during a meeting held Wednesday.

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WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oils and watercolours by Jordanian artist Youssef Badawi at the gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental — 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Hassan Jalel at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by plastic artists Arij Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nahabeh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Graphic art exhibition by Ne'amat Al Nasser at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.).

Jordan Times

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Democracy on campus

THE growing determination of Jordanian university professors to form their own professional association is a natural feature of the ongoing democratisation process in the country. There is hardly a democratic country in the world without a teachers' association, and what our Jordanian academicians are aspiring to is only natural, given the political atmosphere in the Kingdom.

The first concern about this quest for the introduction of democracy to higher education in the country is how truly democratic it is going to be in view of the various challenges facing our society.

The second concern centres on the need to extend the yearning of Jordanian professors for their own independent association to teachers of secondary and elementary schools as well. After all the issue and objective is the same whether one is addressing Jordanian higher education or lower education. As a matter of fact Jordanian teachers at the sub-Tawjihi levels are performing a more important role in view of the fact that they deal with and educate our students at their tender and formative years. If there is ever need to protect rights of teachers it sure must begin at the grassroots level which happens to be the elementary and secondary levels of education.

The third concern relates to the need to complete what our teachers and university educators are trying to do for themselves and their societies by extending this phenomenon of democratisation of Jordanian campuses to students as well. There is no denying that Jordanian students which comprise roughly half of the Jordanian population also need protection and are entitled to their spokesmen to represent them when their rights are trespassed on. Only when this dimension of democratisation is redressed faithfully and completely would there be a healthy academic environment. Only when all these three principles and complementary features of academic freedoms and rights are addressed in-depth, would the emerging picture be complete. Otherwise, the current attempts to liberalise education in the country on a sound basis would be devoid of real substance and balanced motivation. The seats of education in Jordan deserve to enjoy optimum rational freedom and rights for they constitute the ultimate reservoir of knowledge in the country and the necessary reserve for rational and analytical thinking unhindered by prejudices and shortsightedness. The fulfilment of all the objectives of the three major concerns would go a long way to accord Jordanian schools and universities the vital rights and freedoms necessary for their academic survival and well-being.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper Wednesday praised the French-Jordanian relations which, it said, are being constantly strengthened by King Hussein's endeavours. It said, are being constantly strengthened by King Hussein's endeavours. It said Jordan's credibility in Europe is all the time being boosted and the King's views are taken into consideration thanks to King Hussein's wise and practical approach in handling Arab affairs. The paper said that King Hussein has been a staunch supporter of the Palestinian people and Arab just causes at all levels and in all arenas; and he is now in Europe again seeking a just and permanent peace to the Middle East problem at a time when this region is being confronted with Israel's intransigence, and when the Israeli are absorbing settlers and immigrants in the occupied Arab lands. The paper said as the world witnesses constant and fast moving developments, the international community should be more committed to shouldering responsibility for peace at the regional and international levels. The paper said that the King was seeking to achieve peace and an end to Israel's arrogance and continued occupation of Arab land. It said that Europe which is now advocating democracy, should act democratic in its dealings with the Arab-Israeli issue, and should uphold the elements of justice and security.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily describes the (1986-1990) national development plan as dead and that it achieved nothing. Fahed Al Faweh says in his column that indeed the plan was born still because those responsible for drawing it up and implementing its various stages, did not look to the future, but thought that their plan was essentially a continuation of the past. This plan, the writer says has not been implemented in Jordan due to the lack of proper elements and tools for its implementation. He says that the plan was based on continued borrowing, totalling \$3.5 billion between 1986 and 1990, but in view of the heavy debt facing the Kingdom and inability to borrow more, there can be no way for implementing this ambitious plan. Furthermore, the writer notes, those who made the borrowing over the years did that after careful planning but they are now lamenting the situation and decrying measures taken in the past. He says that though no one has bothered to declare the death of the national plan, it is no more in existence and has been so ever since its documents came into being in 1985.

Al Dustour daily commented on the current controversy in Israel between the Likud and Labour, partners in the present coalition government. The paper said that the controversy rose because the Likud has placed conditions for Labour so that peace dialogue can begin with the Palestinians. The obstacle imposed by the Likud following 10 months of bargaining and manoeuvres, shows clearly that Israel is not concerned with the Baker plan and can sacrifice the present coalition for the sake of having its own way and imposing its own will, the paper noted. It said that the failure of the United States to persuade Israel to embark on the dialogue is a failure for Baker and President Bush, and places Washington, once again face to face with a very sensitive test. We call on Bush to take lessons from past experiences and to stop condoning Israel's action and its irresponsible attitude towards the United States and towards all principles, the paper urged. The paper urged Washington to take drastic steps now, as to reply to Israel's further delays and procrastinations.

By Israel Shahak

THERE is no difficulty in divining the real intentions of the Israeli government towards the Palestinians, provided, of course, one is prepared to disregard diplomatic declarations and to understand what it is actually saying, both to the Israeli public, and, through its top generals, to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

For example, take the following declaration by Yossi Beo Aharon, the director-general of the prime minister's office and a long-time policy adviser to Shamir. In a recent article, based on an interview with Ben Aharon (Hadasot, 17 November 1989), Na'omi Levicki wrote:

He (Ben Aharon) is now firm in his opinion that the representatives of the Palestinians in the negotiations should all be inhabitants of the territories, since then, so he believes, he can prevent a dialogue about an independent Palestinian state. He is even prepared to assume that all the Arabs of the territories are PLO supporters and this does not disturb him, as long as they don't stand up and tell him plainly: "I am a PLO representative." As far as he is concerned, the Palestinian delegate can run every morning to Arafat and receive instructions; the question is not whom he gets instructions from but what kind they are. If he gets from the PLO instructions in political affairs, then the whole business is dead, but if he receives instructions from the PLO about the taxes to be imposed in Nablus or about municipal rates in general, then the PLO will be dealing with subjects we want it to deal with and these include all matters relating to home-rule.

From what Ben Aharon says it becomes clear that the hysterical opposition to the PLO is not based on it being made up of "murderers and terrorists" but on the fact that the PLO will not agree to negotiate only about house rates in Ramallah.

I must emphasise that this policy is not only supported by Likud and half of the religious parties (not counting the extremist ones) but that this — or something worse — is what their supporters believe in. In a recent meeting between Faisal Husseini and rightwing Israelis, predominantly Oriental, from the poor quarters of Jerusalem (Kol Hair, 11 August 1989), most of the participants made statements like: "My dream is (a country) from here to the Euphrates and Tigris and you (Palestinians) have no place here. There is no such thing as a Palestinian people. As Golda Meir said, you have 22 states to disperse among. Go to Lebanon." Husseini: "And if the Lebanese do not want me?" Asher (the interlocutor): "If your brother does not want you, do you think that we want you?" We should remember that 50 per cent of Israeli society has supported the policy of "transfer" for two years (the current figure is 52 per cent), and that the "transfer" movement began before the intifada, in the summer of 1987.

The view of the generals

There is also no ambiguity about what the Israeli generals tell Palestinians. In November, 12 Palestinians from Nablus were pulled out of their beds in the middle of the night and taken, by force, to meet General Mordechai, the military commander of the West Bank. He told them

outright that "the aim of the army is to restore the situation in the territories to what it was before the beginning of the intifada." The general minimised. The real aim is to make the situation worse for them than at that time; according to Bar Lev, the minister for the police, the system of computerised magnetic cards is going to be introduced into the West Bank, in addition to the Gaza Strip.

This totalitarian system, which should be called "computerised tyranny," has no equivalent elsewhere in the world. All the secret information about each adult Palestinian, much of it supplied by collaborators and most of it worthless, has now been computerised. By the use of the magnetic cards it is available at any moment to any soldier, policeman or collaborator, to be used at any roadblock and search. This is more important than killing hundreds of Palestinians, since it affects everybody. The concentration by the PLO bureaucracy on the numbers of Palestinians killed is a serious mistake. In one week more people were killed in El Salvador than in two years of the intifada, but the discrimination, amounting to apartheid, totalitarian control of the whole population and the use of humiliation as a calculated instrument of policy is worse in the territories than in El Salvador, and worse even than in South Africa today.

The peace camp

It is also a delusion to assume that groups like "Peace Now" oppose this system, even if they support the demand that the Israeli government should negoti-

ate with the PLO. "Peace Now" meets regularly with Rabin on a friendly basis and, consequently, does not attack him or his policies. It only attacks the settlers, but the settlers operate under Rabin's protection, and, in terms of inflicting suffering on Palestinians they do only a fraction of what the army does. Here is a description of one such meeting, by Nahum barnea (Yedioth Ahronoth, 24 February 1989).

Yitzhak Rabin was calm and pleased when he met this week the heads of Peace Now. In an earlier meeting with that group, six months ago, he was angry and nervous, and he made strong accusations against them. Now, he was reconciled with them, and Tzafi Reshef, one of them, has seen in this readiness to meet them a sign that Rabin feels a winner. He told them several interesting things; for example, that the decision of the American administration to hold talks with the PLO was a good piece of business. The Americans got from Arafat an undertaking to stop the terror, and in return paid a very cheap price — low level talks, only with the American ambassador in Tunisia. The Americans are well content now, they do not look for any solution in the Middle East, and they will leave us in peace, at least for a year. The inhabitants of the territories are under heavy military and political pressure, he said. In the end, they will be broken, and they will themselves put pressure on Arafat to enable them to negotiate by themselves with Israel. The Peace Now representatives doubted whether the Palestinians would be indeed broken by Rabin but they did not

oppose him. In the same way the leaders of the left-wing Zionist parties, including some who protest the atrocities in the territories much more vehemently than "Peace Now" does, ran in the 1988 election on the plank of joining a government in which Rabin and Peres would be ministers, and they are keeping their opposition to atrocities committed by the army and their politics in completely separate compartments.

The Palestinian dignitaries, whether from the ranks of PLO bureaucracy or the Palestinian "notables," are continuing their futile dialogues with friends of Rabin about "solutions," and ignore what is being done to their people and have only themselves to blame for their disappointments. They still refuse to accept the truth about the nature of Israeli society and its politics and allow themselves to be brainwashed by empty declarations of left-wing Zionists about their wish for negotiations with the PLO. But negotiations about what? As we have seen, Shamir's closest adviser and Rabin himself also want to negotiate. Therefore, it should be recognised that the continuing state of talks, talks about talks, dialogues about talks, and proposals about how to talk, are completely divorced from the reality that is actually happening to people. The reality is the daily violence committed in defence of a racist and totalitarian regime, and the barely continuing effort of the intifada to struggle against this regime.

Where the pressure must be put

The historical experience of all

Arab Human Rights Organisation establishes Jordan chapter

By Hani Al Dahleh

The writer, a lawyer, has recently obtained an approval from the Ministry of Interior to open a chapter for the Arab Human Rights Organisation in Amman. The article appeared in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i Tuesday.

FOLLOWING the Jordanian government's consent to permit the creation of a chapter for the Arab Human Rights Organisation, I felt it would be useful to give Jordanians some idea about this organisation and its objectives and methods of operation especially since the Jordanian government was the first government in the Arab east to licence such a society.

The Arab Human Rights Organisation (AHRO) has its main office in Cairo and one in Geneva. Both offices publish pamphlets in English and in French about the organisation's operations and objectives. This organisation has been given a consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The organisation's first conference was held in Sudan in January 1987, and the second is due in Tunis this March. The establishment of this Arab organisation had been a dream of all cultured Arab men and women for a long time. Numerous futile attempts were made for its creation.

The idea of non governmental Arab organisation to defend human rights crystallised in 1983, but it took a whole year to bring this idea into being at a meeting held in Cyprus in December 1983. That meeting was attended by nearly 100 prominent Arab

personalities including university professors, politicians and journalists. Their meeting represented a constituent assembly at which they proclaimed the creation of the organisation for the defence of human rights of citizens in the Arab World.

The organisation defined its objectives in accordance with its statute which includes a call on countries to respect human rights and basic freedoms within the Arab World for all persons living on Arab land in conformity with the values and principles of monotheistic religions, the basic principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international conventions on the political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights of all citizens.

The organisation aims to deepen Arab citizens' awareness about their legitimate rights through various means of communication and the media, and to bolster cooperation and coordination with various organisations involved in human rights issues. It will also dedicate its time and effort to secure the release of all persons whose freedoms have been restricted and who have been exposed to torture or mistreatment because of their beliefs, their affiliations or race.

However, the implementation of this project was not an

easy task because the Arab Order would neither welcome this step nor the organisation's objectives. In addition, the geographical layout of the Arab World and the varying margins of freedom of expression allowed by Arab countries, and the existence of Arab axes constituted and still constitute an additional burden for the organisation. The fact that the organisation's constituent assembly meeting was held in Cyprus, outside the boundaries of the Arab World, was an indicator of the difficulties awaiting such organisation and its mission.

Some Arab countries have in fact placed obstacles in the way of creating branches for this organisation in their territory. On the whole we can say that the organisation's strategy is based on the following:

- 1- The organisation gives due attention to acquiring legal status for all its branches.
- 2- The organisation gives an equal degree of attention and care to the question of its power to advocate the urgent needs of human rights and people's legitimate aspirations.

- 3- The organisation seeks to create a public opinion concerned over ensuring human rights as an essential condition, for the advancement of people in the Arab World.
- 4- The organisation plans to expand and increase its membership vertically and horizontally, and will be flexible over the question of establishing branches.

- 5- The organisation will assume a pan-Arab charter, and will seek to include citizens from various Arab countries as members with different ideological orientations and backgrounds, provided they all commit themselves to the defence of human rights.
- 6- The organisation, which is essentially concerned over human rights in the Arab World, is part of a worldwide movement and, therefore, is concerned with the human rights in all parts of the world.

This is a summary of a preface contained in the organisation's publication that set forth the reasons and motives behind its establishment.

Among those attending the constituent assembly meeting

in Cyprus were members of the organisation's board of trustees who group prominent Jordanian personalities who called for another meeting designed to set the stage for creating a branch in the Kingdom. This led to the creation of a temporary committee which has its head office in Amman. This committee has now decided to hold monthly meetings and to increase the organisation's membership in Jordan.

Each member will have to pay \$200 as membership fee and \$100 subscription fee for four years in addition to \$100 as a contribution to help the committee carry out its mission, so far, 250 members have been registered, and the committee continues to hold monthly meetings.

The committee invited Mr. Mohammad Faeq, the organisation's secretary general to come to Jordan in January 1989. He delivered a lecture at the University of Jordan and was guest of honour at several functions and working dinners for raising further contributions. The board of trustees has ruled that \$1 million should

be raised to be spent in ways that would advance the organisation's causes and objectives.

The Jordanian chapter of this organisation has expressed readiness to raise \$100,000 as a contribution toward this cause and the committee has now raised a large part of this sum.

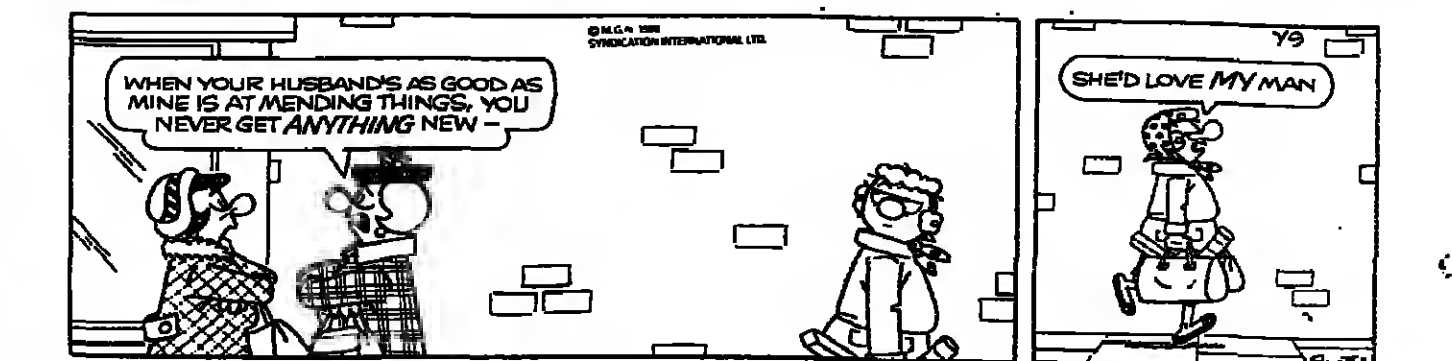
The committee also played host to the organisation's President Dr. Adib Al Jader who spent several days in Jordan meeting with officials and discussing with them the question of legalising the Jordanian branch and other matters pertaining to public freedom, and detainees.

Jader said that he received a favourable response in these matters. These efforts have now been crowned with a government decision, allowing the organisation to be registered as a Jordanian society in accordance with the provisions of the law on Jordanian societies number 33 of 1956 and its amendments. The decision ushered in a new phase in the life of the organisation which hopes to implement its mission and attain its noble objectives.

Mutt'n' Jeff



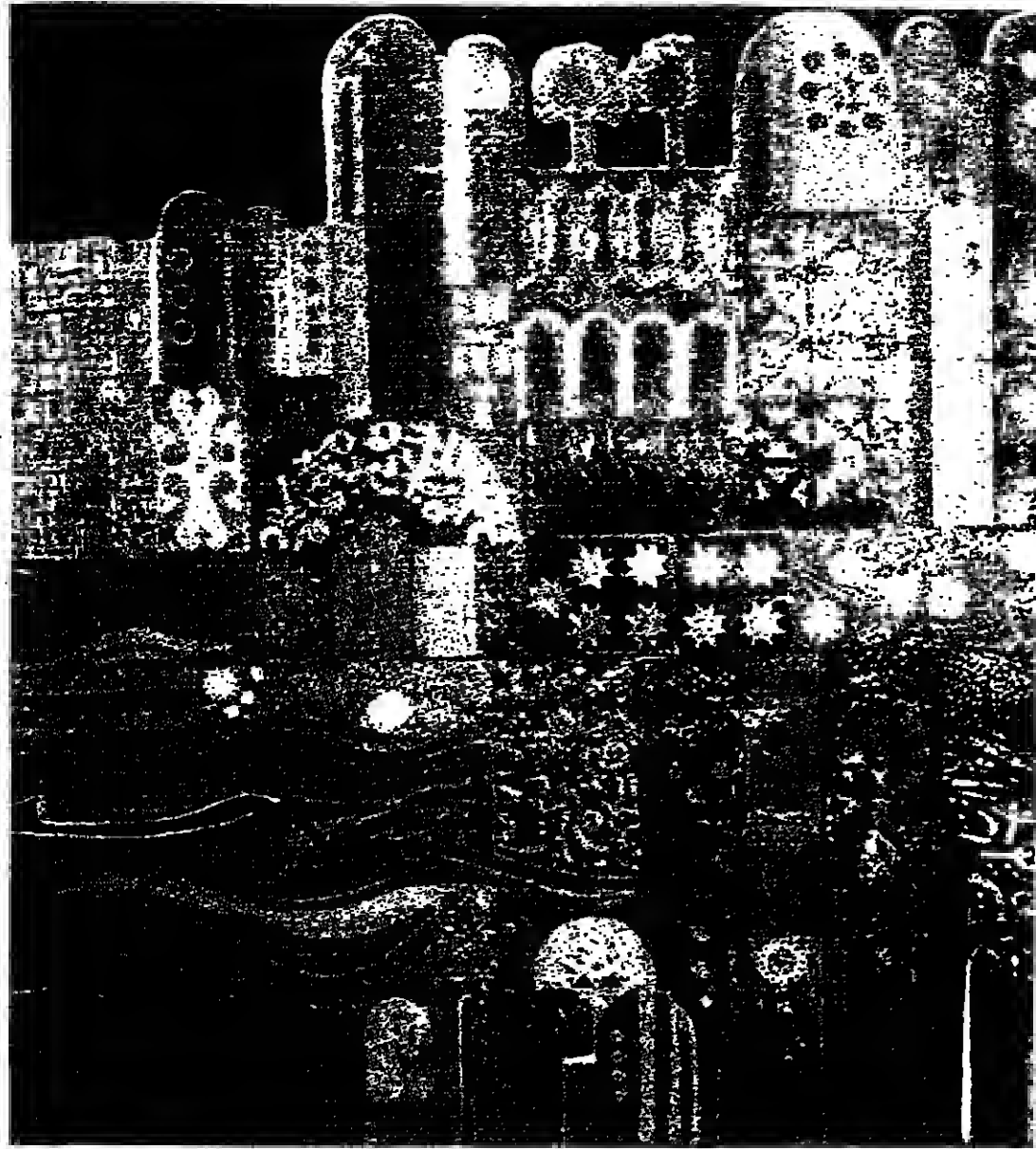
Andy Capp



Peanuts



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Siham Saoudi's ceramics — gaining territory on history

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The lobby of the Inter-Continental hotel swarms with ceramics, wall hangings, mirrors, plates and jars all bearing a decorative intensity that is rarely seen in Jordan. The designer who made them is none other than the renowned Iraqi ceramicist, Siham Saoudi, who with her unending allure of tenderness and her constant *joie de vivre* composes paradisiac scenes based on Iraqi traditional crafts, ancient Assyrian reliefs and Islamic art — whether it is calligraphy in all its forms, geometric grids or architectural motifs.

This exhibition is part of a programme of cooperation between the General Union of Iraqi Women and the Jordanian Women's Union, held on the occasion of the festivities for "The Iraqi Woman" week (4-8 March) and under the slogan: "To the lauded Iraqi Woman... bedecked with virtue, contentment, awareness and self-confidence."

Those indeed are virtues prevalent in Siham Saoudi. She probes into antique Mesopotamian artifacts, sculptures and murals. She studies their techniques and adapts a few of their motifs. If you pace around the Museum of Baghdad you will see the distant sources that brought Siham to this sort of work. Of course lots of her motifs are modern adaptations, so are the different uses of glazes and the application of color.

Like Assyrian slabs, her work comprises a conglomeration of motifs carved in low relief but cut into manageable sections that interlock and that stuck firmly together or to a certain background. Drooping figures and narrative because of the Muslim injunction against human representation, she retains the tumultuous upheavals of mounds and vases existing in scenes as old as 700 B.C. where these formations surmount boards of workers. The mounds and vases are textured and are surrounded by trees.

Siham borrows various motifs from Nimrod, Ashurbanipal's palace.

She takes the motif of the Tree of Life which forms a high arch and subjugates it to Islamic configuration, adding motifs from there too.

To arrive to her decorative surfaces she handles clay in every way possible, she adds tiny pointed bits to give a hairlike look, she models little monolithic concave blooms with her fingers and sticks them on in orderly rows. She indents the clay with a sharp tool (the way cuneiform writing was done). Siham also acquires the technique of making scale and impressing motifs into the clay especially where geometric medallions are concerned; florettes adapted in ancient times from carpet motifs to coloured wall paintings and then to clay and some reliefs at Nimrod.

able to create such wondrous textures, she goes on with large coils and undulates them to form the over-flowing river. Would an Iraqi who holds his land so dear ever forget the Tigris and Euphrates in a landscape? Following local landscape, her works have

an irregular outline.

The patina of these works is as varied as the motifs and textures. If the mood of the piece is decorative, it would then be vitrified, otherwise it would be given a matt finish, done with wax resist, or left in the original patina of the clay, which itself is coloured as in the case of a centralised, dominant palm tree in one of the wall-hangings.

Her themes centre mostly around the Baghdad landscape with tumultuous rhythms created by domed architecture, palm trees, water, flowers and calligraphy. She incorporates Islamic phrases like "Ma Sha' Allah" often with a golden glaze. These are rendered in different scripts.

The colour scheme predominant in her work ranges from a pastel aquamarine to turquoise and royal blue, colours prevalent in most mosque decorations in Iraq today. She brings in pink to alleviate the seriousness of the work and to impart to it part of her femininity.

Siham displays some potteryware that she handles in different ways. Some jars retain the natural finish of the clay, with a slightly antiquated patina. It bears etchings and striations similar to those found on the Sumerian pots of 2400 B.C. But Siham adds a modern touch to the whole work. She glazes the interior and allows the glaze to linger in the crevices of the external striations. She also creates elongated pots reminiscent of the "Alberello", which first appeared in the 12th century and was used in Europe as a pharmaceutical container. To these she gives a green glazed patina.

We also find large plates with a

deep cavetto and large rim, where the original leather-hard slab is undulated by gathering and pushing up underneath, thus assuming the forms of mounds and vales, forms that are dear to her because of their suave curvilinearity.

Siham also tries her hand at lyrical abstraction. We see a flesh-colored slab that protrudes into the shape of breasts, on the neckline and below the protrusions we see decorations that appear as a maquette for a necklace and pendentif.

Few minutes out of central Baghdad, Siham Saoudi lives in what we can truly call "an artist's paradise." Her home, surrounded by palm groves is flanked by a vast exhibition hall and a studio. The exhibition hall has large glass windows allowing enough light to penetrate to the murals and artifacts displayed within. In it, she can share her work with friends and visitors. In fact, every visitor feels at home with her, what with the well-known Iraqi hospitality and the sweet countenance and modesty of the artist herself. At the entrance stands her studio. Tubs of clay sit waiting for it to dry to the right consistency. Inside, racks full of modelling tools, files, knives and objects that have a valid texture for impression stalk the walls. Hinge tables stand in a row awaiting the formation of murals. All the way in, stand no less than three majestic kilns.

With her proficiency as a ceramicist and all that has been made available to her, it is no wonder that Siham Saoudi can venture into past and present with so much ease and so much familiarity.

We also find large plates with a

Women — frontline in the battle against hunger

IN Gambia, women grow the rice for family consumption. So, every morning, after cooking and doing household chores, Polonka Samatch, a mother of eight children, heads for the rice fields half an hour away.

Polonka used to wade, a baby strapped to her back and mud up to her knees, through a mosquito-infested swamp to reach the paddies. Not any more: the villagers have built bridges and causeways for easy access, while Polonka and other village women are learning more efficient farming methods. All this is happening through a food-for-work project assisted by World Food Programme (WFP) and implemented by a non-governmental organisation.

For millions of poor women across the world, WFP's food aid is a stepping stone to a better life. In 1989, the Programme allocated \$323 million to projects that directly involve and benefit women. This makes WFP the largest source of funds in the United Nations system for projects reaching poor, low-income, needy, unskilled and destitute women.

Women of the farming families who are involved in the implementation of WFP-assisted Agricultural Highland Regions Development Project also receive food aid for their work on the farms and at the state-owned fruit-tree and forestry seedling production nurseries. During 1990 WFP is expected to extend its food assistance to cover, among other target groups, the women trainees of the social development centres which are situated in the rural parts of Jordan. The immediate and long-term objectives of the food aid to these women are to impart to them vocational skills for engaging in income-generating activities and as a result of training them in a variety of vocations, to become active participants in the social and economic development of the country.

More jobs for women

A large share of WFP aid is channelled through food-for-work projects reaching the very poor, the hungry and the unemployed — most of whom are women. Traditionally responsible for the family's needs, women are often more interested than men in working for food: it is an added income that women can control more directly than money and use promptly for the family welfare.

In some countries — Lesotho, India and Bangladesh, for example — from 50 to 90 per cent of the labourers in WFP-assisted food-for-work projects are women. Many are landless peasants who could not find other employment during the slack season.

The thousands of women building rural roads and growing trees in nurseries at a food-for-work scheme in Lesotho are unskilled, landless peasants from the mountains. In this landlocked country where many men migrate to South Africa, employment for women is a pressing need.

Money-earning skills

Food aid can be used as an incentive to attend courses or as compensation for the time of trainees. In Syria, young women receive rations while learning to weave rugs, and so do poor Jamaican women learning to be

hairdressers, beauticians, hotel staff, or other tourism-related skills.

Helping women earn an income is a key step in the battle against hunger. Women are crucial to household food security because of the food they grow and the food they buy: there is a direct relationship between what a woman earns and what the family eats. Studies have shown that women beneficiaries in the Philippines spend a large share of the additional income to improve the family diet and pay for children's education.

Earning more money is especially important for single mothers — at least one-third of households in the developing world are headed by a woman, and most of these families live in dire poverty. In many countries, because of male migration to large cities or abroad, these rates are even higher. Recognising this reality, a WFP-assisted project to improve the nutrition of vulnerable groups in Cape Verde specifically targets women heads of household, whose families are the most destitute.

Food aid gives overburdened women more time by freeing them from wage employment at miserable salaries. The additional income also allows women to purchase goods that reduce their labour. In China, households receiving food aid were able to buy bicycles, sewing machines, and farm and kitchen implements.

"During 1990 WFP is expected to extend its food assistance to cover, among other target groups, the women trainees of the social development centres which are situated in the rural parts of Jordan."

When beneficiaries buy WFP food at a fraction of its market value, the funds generated can improve the community's quality of life. In Tanzania, housing, community centres and wells are built with funds generated through the sale of food aid to labourers in the sisal plantations.

Many studies have noted that African rural women spend from four to six hours a day pounding by hand sorghum and millet. In Benin and Burkina Faso, food aid schemes help women villagers to save a little money to purchase grinding mills. It would take five hours to grind by hand the grain that a mill can grind in five minutes.

In bush villages in Burkina Faso, once the women have bought the mill, the villagers turn out for a day of collective work. Singing while they work, they build a mud hut to house the mill. For this work, the villagers receive food rations which are pooled into a collective meal, the *po-pote*.

Distributed through health centres, food rations help women — many in the Third World are chronically anaemic — to overcome nutritional deficiencies during pregnancy and lactancy. In Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauri-

tania, for example, WFP family food rations are given to women when they come to rural health clinics for checkups.

In Swaziland, public health officials noted that attendance at local health clinics rose noticeably in response to the monthly food distribution. At the centres, pregnant women are tested for anaemia while their babies and children are weighed and measured. The health officials also report the positive effect food aid has had on the immunisation and tuberculosis programmes.

Equality in education

When you educate a woman, you educate a nation, says a proverb. Yet, in spite of wide efforts, women's education still lags behind men's. The majority of the illiterate are women, school enrolment of girls is lower than boys', and young women are still a minority in high schools and universities. Food aid can help.

The Gayaza High School for Girls, in Uganda, was one of the first girls' boarding schools in East Africa. Long before WFP assistance to the school started, its students were involved in farming, on the basis that Ugandan women have always been involved in agriculture. To help the recovery of agriculture in war-torn Uganda, WFP supports with food aid 197 senior secondary schools, including the Gayaza High School, 93 teacher training colleges and 37 technical schools where students engage in farming.

Helping women farmers grow more food

Especially in Africa, women are the key to household food security. African women account for nearly half of the agricultural labour force and are mostly involved in producing subsistence food. Women undertake a large share of food production work: planting, weeding and hoeing, harvesting, storage, marketing and food processing (husking, grinding, pounding, smoking, drying, etc.).

Thus, when food aid helps women farmers grow more food with more efficient farming methods it has a positive effect on the family's nutrition and well-being.

In rural Benin, where male migration to large towns and abroad leaves women increasingly in charge of food production, WFP has assisted women's cooperatives for food processing and marketing. More than 5,000 women in 200 groups work in processing cassava, making karite and extracting groundnut and palm oil.

In Uganda, a sub-project for dairy development has trained more than 100 women farmers in animal husbandry and supplied Friesian cows. Since the first female calf born is taken away after weaning and given to another woman, the project should eventually become self-sustaining.

Food aid works for women

Food aid can do much more for women than provide needed protein and carbohydrates. Food aid can help women build a better life for themselves and their families; in this way, it supports women's central role in the struggle to end hunger — World Food Programme.

Randa Habib's Corner Nagging time

NOW that we have set the rules for dancing at parties, it is time to tackle another important issue: the right to nag. It seems that people, in the past decades, got so used to nagging that it became part of their daily life, no less important than the air they inhale or the bread they eat.

That is why it is important, in this era of democratisation, to set the rules for nagging.

The right to nag, especially in these hard times, must become an indisputable right for every citizen. What we should do now is to define the time and volume of nagging, the circumstances and the purposes. After all, living in an area of political and economic tensions, wars and aggressions provides a natural ambience for nagging. We teach our children poems about lost homes rather than flowers and beauty, and we expect them to become mature naggers.

Remember the good old days when we enjoyed an extravagant way of living under the economic boom? Money was abundant to the extent we did not know what to do with it. Then we nagged about the assortment of items on display in our shops; we nagged about their poor quality and durability.

Today, the nagging continues, albeit in different tones. We nag about the lack of imported meat. We nag about the sky-rocketing prices of local lamb. We nag when we eat and we nag when we are starving. We nag when we drink and when we are thirsty.

An anti-nagging extra-curricular programme should be introduced for kindergarten and school children. A public-awareness anti-nagging campaign at the grassroots level is also required to stem the intrinsic nagging habit inherent in most of us.

Morocco's ancient capital threatened with decay

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

FEZ, Morocco — Morocco's ancient imperial capital of Fez, one of the wonders of the Arab World from which half of Spain and most of North Africa was once governed, is decaying.

Chemicals used by scores of craftsmen are fouling natural water supplies and dissolving centuries-old clay pipes.

Vibrations from electric machines are cracking the walls of old houses and undermining the foundations of the city, established more than a thousand years ago.

Some 13 per cent of the old houses around the famous Kairouine mosque at the heart of the old city have been turned into small factories or are in ruins, said city architect Abdellatif Al Hajjami.

Carpenters with electric saws and metal engravers with drills are literally shaking the life out of 7,000 historical buildings.

"Before these activities took place in specially set aside places and without modern tools. Now they have been set up in places which are not appropriate," Al Hajjami said.

More and more poor refugees from areas ravaged by a mid-1980s drought live in the one-grand homes of traders, merchants, artists and politicians who made the city a jewel of Islamic civilisation.

"The problem is density. Many people live in one house while the house next door is crumbling away, and the one next door to that has become a small factory," said Al Hajjami.

He is working on a project sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to safeguard Fez.

Al Hajjami says between 185,000 and 200,000 people are crammed into some 1,700 acres. This compares with around 120,000 inhabitants in the 1950s.

The increase in population has coincided with a sharp decrease in living accommodation.

"Before, you maybe had one family in one house. Now, many houses are in ruins and you have one family in each room... that in

itself accelerates the process of decline," Al Hajjami said.

Such problems symbolise the eclipse and decline of a city that dominated Morocco's commercial, cultural, political and religious life for 10 centuries.

The French, during a 1912-1956 protectorate, placed the political capital at Rabat. On independence, King Hassan's father Mohammed V kept it there.

Casablanca is Morocco's undisputed business capital and King Hassan spends more time in Marrakesh, leaving Fez With little more than tourism and memories.

The city still remains an astonishing sight. Apart from electricity, it owes virtually nothing to the modern world.

Historians and experts say the dense narrow alleys form the finest and most complete example in the world of a working medieval Islamic city. Its main souk, more than one mile in length, maintains the whole tradition of urban crafts.

"It is the sheer scale of Fez that separates it from other cities in the Arab and Islamic world. Deep in its heart, you are back in the 10th century. There is virtually nothing to bring you back to the 20th," Al Hajjami added.

Fez was founded in 792 by Moulay Idriss I, Morocco's most venerated saint and creator of its first Muslim dynasty.

His son Moulay Idriss II welcomed refugees from the Andalusian city of Cordoba and Kairouan in Tunisia, the two most important cities of western Islam.

For years, Fez was considered the most advanced seat of learning in mathematics, philosophy and medicine.

The 10th century Pope Sylvester II studied at Kairouine University where he is reputed to have learnt the importance of zero in advanced mathematics which he then introduced to Europe.

In the 13th century, a new dynasty, the Merenids, took the city into a golden age. They enlarged the university and built a series of madrasas, or colleges, which attracted students from all over the Arab World.

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High credit risk label dismays Bahrain officials

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain, the Gulf's major banking centre, said Wednesday an international decision to classify it with Third World countries as a high credit risk was unfair because Bahrain set no restrictions on capital outflow.

Sheikh Ibrahim Khalifa Al Khalifa, deputy governor of the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA), said he hoped the 1988 Basic Law, which puts all Gulf Arab states except Saudi Arabia into the same risk category, would soon be revised.

"The higher weighting is said to reflect higher transfer risk, however, Bahrain has never operated restrictions on outward payments and has no intention of introducing such restrictions in the future," he told a banking conference.

"Therefore, this aspect of the Basic Law does not reflect reality and discriminates against a country like Bahrain," he said.

Representations had been made to get the problem resolved and "I very much hope a solution will be found," he added.

The rating set by the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements hits all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) apart from Saudi Arabia. It is due to come into force in 1992.

GCC members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, all wealthy oil producers, will be affected.

Arab bankers say the high risk rating will raise the cost of finance to Arab countries, pushing up interest rates for their loans and making it harder for them to borrow money.

Under the terms of the accord, any OECD-incorporated bank extending a long-term loan to an Arab country, company, or financial institution must cover eight per cent of the loan with an equal increase in bank capital, or provisions.

"Bahrain and other countries in the GCC cannot really be categorised this way because they have adequate foreign exchange reserves and do not put controls on payment of interest on loans," one British banker said.

"They are hoping to persuade the group of 10 industrial nations to change the weighting system and classify them the same way as an OECD country," he said.

Saudi Arabia and the 24 states of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) — grouping Western countries and Japan — are classified as low risk.

Bankers say Saudi Arabia negotiated a special status because it pledged to provide funds to the International Monetary Fund.

Sheikh Ibrahim said Bahrain, which has a large offshore banking centre, was taking steps to comply with tougher capital adequacy guidelines set by the Basle accord.

"There is strong evidence that many banks in Bahrain already meet these standards comfortably," Bahrain Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim told the meeting.

Bahrain has 56 offshore banking units, and around 30 onshore commercial, investment, and Islamic banks.

OPEC warns Arabs to stop relying on foreign know-how

KUWAIT (AP) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has warned against the continued dependence of the Arab oil industry on foreign know-how.

The Kuwait-based organisation, which groups 11 Arab states, warned in its monthly bulletin that the Arab oil industry would be "rootless" if national oil companies did not develop an advanced indigenous labour force.

It noted that nationals did replace expatriates in key management posts since the mid-1970s when the oil industry in most OPEC countries came under national control, but "foreign experts still hold key technical positions responsible for the day-to-day running" of the industry.

"All the long-established multinational oil companies are technologically integrated (into)... homogeneous teams. National oil companies in OPEC countries may be described as 'rootless' because they have a long way to go before they have their own research and

development systems, which are the ultimate source of know-how," the bulletin said.

"Since these entities are viewed by their top overseers as multibillion-dollar businesses, a lack of R-and-D (research and development) places them in a precarious situation," it added.

OPEC's warning was in line with recurring remarks by Arab academics and experts against the notion that technology transfer is merely the ability to purchase high-technology equipment and recruit foreign expertise.

"Seeking technological input directly from the market or through a joint venture partner is costly, because it sometimes involves paying a monopoly price for proprietary knowledge. It also leads to meager results in terms of technology transfer," the editorial said.

"The oil industry is characterised by the rapidity with which technology becomes obsolete, equipment becomes redundant, and management approaches undergo radical changes," the

bulletin said.

"How the individual oil companies deal with the problem arising from such changes gives an indication of their viability," it added.

OPEC called for a pan-Arab integration of know-how as the sole long-term solution for the technology problems of the Arab oil industry over the coming 50 years or so.

"Long-term solutions, although time consuming, are the only answer. Arab oil companies must develop their own innovative R-and-D systems," the bulletin said.

"The oil industry is here to stay for many years, possibly half a century or more, which is too long to be grafted into another tree. It is high time the Arab oil industries join ranks in collaboration with OPEC to formulate a long-term R-and-D plan," it added.

The OPEC member states are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

Dealers see \$1 = 160 yen

TOKYO (R) — The dollar is poised to climb to 160 yen or higher this year on the back of fierce buying demand by investors and speculators, many dealers in Tokyo said Wednesday.

The dollar has gained about 4.2 per cent against the yen since the beginning of the year, despite persistent dollar-selling by the Bank of Japan (BOJ). The dollar hit an eight-month high of 150.98 yen in Tokyo Wednesday.

"The dollar has spent a long time trading in a narrow range and now has a lot of pent-up energy to go higher," said Masato Hayashi, chief customer dealer at the Bank of Tokyo.

Traders say the U.S. currency, which had been trading in a 140-146 yen range since October until surging in the last couple of weeks, has built solid support at around 145 yen from which to rise further, several dealers said.

"We just can't see any factors right now that would cause investor flows to come back into Japan," said Takanori Makita, a customer dealer at the Nippon Credit Bank in Tokyo.

Large investor and corporate capital flows out of Japan, wobbly stock and bond markets as well as a lack of confidence in Japan's political leadership are factors putting pressure on the yen, dealers said.

Japanese direct investment abroad "is on a steadily rising trend. There's really no reason to expect it to change," said Jan Vandenberg, economist at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc.

Uncertainty over U.S. bond and stock markets has convinced some Japanese investors to concentrate on direct investments in land and company ownership abroad, dealers said.

Total Japanese direct investment overseas in January totalled \$4.42 billion, Vandenberg said.

The Bank of Japan has dumped some \$10 billion into the Tokyo market since the beginning of the year in a bid to stem the U.S. currency's rise against the yen.

Currency and stock markets expect the BOJ to boost Japan's official discount rate by 0.75 or even a full percentage point soon to try to prop up the yen and stem inflationary fears.

The ministry of finance has been reluctant to raise Japan's discount rate because of the potentially negative impact it could have on the stock market.

The Nikkei stock index, rocked by fears of higher interest rates, has tumbled 13.2 per cent since the start of the year.

African leaders find austerity hard to sell to the people

ABIDJAN (R) — Mercedes-Benz cars, once a prized symbol of power in Africa, have become targets for protest as unrest caused by economic austerity sweeps the continent.

"It's dangerous these days to drive around in a Mercedes," said one shopkeeper in Ivory Coast who had seen several of them being rocked by demonstrators this week.

In Gabon, a fresh wave of strikes is looming for black Africa's richest nation in the latest sign of discontent with harsh reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The continent is in a slump largely because of low commodity prices, while Europe, Asia and North America are booming.

But with good times that allowed people to buy expensive cars fresh in people's minds, African leaders are finding it tough to get their people to accept the IMF medicine.

"We are the people who didn't benefit during the boom years," a middle-ranking civil servant in Ivory Coast said after street protests against proposed salary cuts of up to 40 per cent. "And now they want us to be the ones to make sacrifices."

The unrest generally has been most serious in better-off countries such as Nigeria, Gabon or Ivory Coast which have had a taste of prosperity only to see it slip away.

In Gabon, which has been hit by work stoppages, riots and looting since mid-January, President Omar Bongo took steps last weekend to halt the most serious unrest of his 23-year rule.

He announced a refund of a three-per-cent tax on all wages and postponed elections due in April. He also claimed he was "trapped" by accords he had signed with the IMF.

"Bongo has no other alternative than to give in to most demands and soften the austerity drive imposed by the IMF," a Western diplomat said.

"His fledgling democratic moves can only succeed if he manages to defuse social tension now," he noted.

Gabon has the highest per capita income in black Africa but revenues from oil have dropped

sharply since the mid-1980s.

It is one of more than 20 African countries following IMF-backed austerity programmes.

Sub-Saharan Africa's overall debt rose from \$6 billion in 1970 to \$134 billion in 1988, making it the world's most heavily indebted region, the World Bank says.

African leaders are treading cautiously, mindful of riots provoked by hardship measures in the past two years in Nigeria, Zambia and Venezuela.

Ivory Coast's President Felix Houphouët-Boigny, faced with the worst civil strife in his 30 years in office, has postponed for a fourth time a meeting called to announce taxes of between 10 and 40 per cent on government and private sector wages.

British government report slams Egyptians' takeover of Harrods

LONDON (R) — A hard-hitting British government report said Wednesday the Egyptian Fayeds brothers had acted deceitfully in their controversial takeover of London's luxury Harrods department store.

But government fraud investigators who examined the report before publication said last week they would take no legal action against the Fayeds in connection with the 1985 purchase of Harrods' parent House of Fraser chain.

"They repeatedly lied to us about their family background, their early business life and their wealth," the 752-page Department of Trade and Industry report said.

The Fayeds have denied any wrongdoing in the £615 million (\$1 billion) deal bitterly challenged over the years by Roland "Tiny" Rowland, head of the Lorrain trading conglomerate which had sought to buy House of Fraser.

The findings backed longstanding Lorrain allegations that

the Fayeds did not use their own money to buy House of Fraser.

When they made a bid for the public company, the Fayeds claimed to be worth more than \$1 billion. But the report said it was likely they used their association with the world's richest man, the Sultan of Brunei, to acquire funds for the takeover.

"We are of the very clear opinion that none of the activities of the Fayeds of which we have been told generated sufficient cash for the Fayeds to have been in a position to acquire House of Fraser, or any substantial part of it, with their own funds," it said.

During the investigation the brothers, Mohammad and Ali, knowingly produced false documents, according to the report.

But Trade and Industry Secretary Nicholas Ridley has said no action would be taken beyond making the report public and that evidence uncovered is insufficient to bring criminal charges.

A House of Fraser spokesman denied the Sultan of Brunei had

funded the takeover.

"The answer now and forever is no," said Michael Cole, a director of the department store chain. "The sultan himself has confirmed this fact and delivered an affirmation of that fact under the great seal of Brunei."

Cole told a news conference the entire report was shocking in its ineptitude and injustice and said the Fayeds had paid for House of Fraser with their own money.

"They have held us to be guilty unless proven innocent. In simple terms, they did not give us a fair hearing," he said.

The report was shocking in its ineptitude and injustice and said the Fayeds had paid for House of Fraser with their own money.

"They have held us to be guilty unless proven innocent. In simple terms, they did not give us a fair hearing," he said.

Saatchi secures credit lifelines

LONDON (R) — Advertising giant Saatchi and Saatchi, hit by sinking profits, has grabbed a \$450 million credit lifeline from 20 banks, a company spokesman said.

"This should be more than enough to see the group through its present crisis," he said. He did not identify the banks.

A downturn in the U.S. and British advertising markets has swept Saatchi off a wave of success in the last decade which began with a publicity campaign that helped Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to power in the 1979 general election.

Free-tax profit fell from £138 million (\$277 million) in the year to September 1988 to £21.8 million (\$36 million) in the following 12-month period.

Saatchi said last month it could not attain market estimates of £65 million (\$107.3 million) in pre-tax profit for the current year.

Founded by brothers Maurice and Charles Saatchi, the company became the world's biggest advertising agency in 1986 when it acquired U.S. group Ted Bates. But it was ousted from its premier position in 1989 by WPP Group PLC headed, ironically, by former Saatchi employee Martin Sorrell.

In December, the Saatchi brothers stepped down as joint chief executives and Frenchman Robert Louis-Dreyfus was appointed in their place.

An unsuccessful diversification into management consultancy businesses, mainly in the United States, added to its woes. Saatchi hopes to sell off the business as part of a radical restructuring.

Share analysts believe the consultants are worth less than £100 million (\$165 million), far below the £500 million (\$495 million) they say Saatchi needs to boost its balance sheet.

THE Daily Crossword

by James Barrick

ACROSS

- 1 Act like
- 2 Act like
- 3 Eliminate the
- 4 Kind of wage
- 5 Omen
- 6 Indicator
- 7 Oracle
- 8 Homo sapiens
- 9 Clothing
- 10 Denial
- 11 Cause pain
- 12 Peaks
- 13 Something
- 14 Wind
- 15 Make lace
- 16 Omen
- 17 Travel abbr.
- 18 Doctrine
- 19 Co-worker
- 20 Hirohito et al.
- 21 The
- 22 George
- 23 Place near
- 24 Noble
- 25 Undisturbed
- 26 John or Edie
- 27 Male public
- 28 Goody
- 29 Costs
- 30 Feel anger
- 31 Arrest
- 32 Nero
- 33 "Tree" e.g.
- 34 Khan
- 35 Primrose
- 36 Implying one
- 37 "Not"
- 38 Stranger
- 39 UN abbr.
- 40 Part
- 41 Turk, little
- 42 Mountain
- 43 Lark
- 44 Female
- 45 Slave
- 46 Slag
- 47 Become
- 48 Manifest
- 49 Timetable
- 50 Abbr.
- 51 Shalom
- 52 Middle East
- 53 Prince
- 54 A seasoning
- 55 Substances
- 56 London gallery
- 57 Certain
- 58 Negotiators
- 59 Farm denizen
- 60 Ways abbr.
- 61 Wherewithal
- 62 Reveals
- 63 Round
- 64 Soft food
- 65 OT twin
- 66 Exclude
- 67 Fatty
- 68 Track
- 69 Ninny
- 70 Stronghold
- 71 Cock the
- 72 actress
- 73 Goss
- 74 Take up again
- 75 Qry.

DOWN

- 1 Charge with wrongdoing
- 2 Wonder
- 3 First
- 4 Tiny
- 5 Female
- 6 Slag
- 7 Become
- 8 Manifest
- 9 Timetable
- 10 Abbr.
- 11 Shalom
- 12 Middle East
- 13 Prince
- 14 A seasoning
- 15 Substances
- 16 London gallery
- 17 Certain
- 18 Negotiators
- 19 Farm denizen
- 20 Ways abbr.
- 21 Wherewithal
- 22 Reveals
- 23 Round
- 24 Soft food
- 25 OT twin
- 26 Exclude
- 27 Fatty
- 28 Track
- 29 Ninny
- 30 Stronghold
- 31 Cock the
- 32 actress
- 33 Goss
- 34 Take up again
- 35 Qry.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. ACT LIKE, 2. ACT LIKE, 3. ELIMINATE THE, 4. KIND OF WAGE, 5. OMEN, 6. INDICATOR, 7. ORACLE, 8. HOMO SAPIENS, 9. CLOTHING, 10. DENIAL, 11. CAUSE PAIN, 12. PEAKS, 13. SOMETHING, 14. WIND, 15. MAKE LACE, 16. OMEN, 17. TRAVEL ABBR., 18. DOCTRINE, 19. CO-WORKER, 20. HIROHITO ET AL., 21. THE, 22. GEORGE, 23. PLACE NEAR, 24. NOBLE, 25. UNDISTURBED, 26. JOHN OR EDIE, 27. MALE PUBLIC, 28. GOODY, 29. COSTS, 30. FEEL ANGER, 31. ARREST, 32. NERO, 33. "TREE" E.G., 34. KHAN, 35. PRIMROSE, 36. IMPLYING ONE, 37. "NOT", 38. STRANGER, 39. UN ABBR., 40. PART, 41. TURK, LITTLE, 42. MOUNTAIN, 43. LARK, 44. FEMALE, 45. SLAVE, 46. SLAG, 47. BECOME, 48. MANIFEST, 49. TIMETABLE, 50. ABBR., 51. SHALOM, 52. MIDDLE EAST, 53. PRINCE, 54. A SEASONING, 55. SUBSTANCES, 56. LONDON GALLERY, 57. CERTAIN, 58. NEGOTIATORS, 59. FARM DENIZEN, 60. WAYS ABBR., 61. WHEREWITHAL, 62. REVEALS, 63. ROUND, 64. SOFT FOOD, 65. OT TWIN, 66. EXCLUDE, 67. FATTY, 68. TRACK, 69. NINNY, 70. STRONGHOLD, 71. COCK THE, 72. ACTRESS, 73. GOSS, 74. TAKE UP AGAIN, 75. QRY.

DOWN: 1. CHARGE WITH WRONGDOING, 2. WONDER, 3. FIRST, 4. TINY, 5. FEMALE, 6. SLAG, 7. BECOME, 8. MANIFEST, 9. TIMETABLE, 10. ABBR., 11. SHALOM, 12. MIDDLE EAST, 13. PRINCE, 14. A SEASONING, 15. SUBSTANCES, 16. LONDON GALLERY, 17. CERTAIN, 18. NEGOTIATORS, 19. FARM DENIZEN, 20. WAYS ABBR., 21. WHEREWITHAL, 22. REVEALS, 23. ROUND, 24. SOFT FOOD, 25. OT TWIN, 26. EXCLUDE, 27. FATTY, 28. TRACK, 29. NINNY, 30. STRONGHOLD, 31. COCK THE, 32. ACTRESS, 33. GOSS, 34. TAKE UP AGAIN, 35. QRY.

Swissair sells Swissotel to Japanese

ZURICH (R) — Swiss national airline Swissair has agreed to sell its interests in 17 hotels around the world to Aoki Corp, a Japanese construction and hotel group.

The airline said Tuesday that a

letter of intent to sell its Swissotel offshoot was signed recently and the deal should be completed in a few months.

Financial details were not given, but Swissair said the sale price would represent an attractive

return on its investment.

Aoki already owns 67 hotels in 11 countries through its American subsidiary Westin Hotels and Resorts and operates a separate nine-hotel chain under the name of Caesar Park Hotels.

Swissotel has stakes of 40 to 95 per cent in 12 hotels in Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United States, South Korea and Turkey. It also manages two further hotels in Switzerland, as well as three others in West Germany, Canada and China.

Donzel told Reuters Swissair preferred instead to spend its cash on cooperation deals with other airlines and on Galileo, a computerised reservation system,

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| One Sterling | 1.6405/15 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1860/70 | U.S. dollars |
| | 1.7025/32 | U.S. dollars |
| | 1.9170/80 | U.S. dollars |
| | 1.5009/16 | U.S. dollars |
| | 35.32/37 | U.S. dollars |
| | 5.7470/20 | U.S. dollars |
| | 1256/1257 | U.S. dollars |
| | 150.72/62 | U.S. dollars |
| | 6.1568/55 | U.S. dollars |
| | 6.5250/300 | U.S. dollars |
| One ounce of gold | 402.50/403.00 | U.S. dollars |

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

| Wednesday, March 7, 1990 | | Central Bank official rates | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--|
| U.S. dollar | Buy | Sell | |
| Pound Sterling | 670.0 | 674.0 | |
| Deutsche mark | 1102.1 | 1108.7 | |
| Swiss franc | 392.9 | 395.3 | |
| French franc | 445.8 | 448.5 | |

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market closed slightly firmer led by demand for resource stocks and positive sentiment from a strong performance on Wall Street. The All Ordinaries Index rose 2.7 to 1,583.1.

TOKYO — Prices closed sharply down but off their lows in thin trading. Arbitrageurs unwinding stock index futures positions fuelled the broad-based selling. The Nikkei dropped 428.74 points, or 1.27 per cent, to 33,362.34.

HONG KONG — Shares closed marginally lower after narrow-range trading ahead of Hong Kong's budget announcement on Wednesday. The Hang Seng Index shed 6.78 points to 2,926.45.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed higher across the board on speculative buying and bargain-hunting. The Straits Times Industrial Index climbed 16.38 points to 1,568.93.

BOMBAY — Shares finished mixed after an early rally lost momentum for lack of investor support. The exchange index slipped 0.32 to 678.39.

FRANKFURT — The market staged a surprise comeback from its recent malaise with prices closing 1.2 per cent above Tuesday levels. The Dax Index rose 22.50 to 1,844.72.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed higher, with the All-Share SPI Index up 11.7, or 1.07 per cent, at 1,106.4.

PARIS — Prices wavered in low volume amid concerns about international interest rates.

LONDON — Shares held around the day's highs, buoyed by a modest Wall Street advance, but activity was sluggish. By 1540 GMT the FTSE-100 index was up 16.8 to 2,322.8.

NEW YORK — Blue chips were modestly higher in morning trading, while a slight advance in bonds soon wilted. The Dow rose about six to 2,683.

HOROSCOPE

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 8, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until mid-day you are under good aspects for whatever has to do with material and financial realm. Avoid confusion tonight.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Improving your surroundings now will make your duties more effective. Firing your home now would greatly increase the value of your property.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) See as many friends you have neglected seeing or contacting as possible. Brighten your home by inviting cheerful persons in and enjoy them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Admit an articulate acquaintance now into your circle of friends. Happiness with your attachment will now be in the home.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Give priority now to invitations that are extended you by a sincere woman. Find out just how your loved one would like your surroundings now.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) You and your family desire and should have outside pleasures and recreations now. Discussions with good friends of practical problems will help everyone concerned.

VERGO (August 22 to September 22) A trip with a good friend now

would solve your restlessness. Fill your home with as many newcomers in your life as possible.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 23) Now is the time to enlist an influential man's assistance in a recreational project. A very good time to plan future recreations with your attachment.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Little favours extended to good friends now will pay off handsomely. Inviting others into your home should wait until you are better prepared for them.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Include in your social activities now persons in prominent positions. Use all the energy to do what pleases your loved one first.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) You will enjoy friends most by being alone individually with them. You now see how you and your loved one can have greater prosperity.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Look for friendships now that can round out your activities. A very good time for any practical actions and deeds at your home.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) It's not the time for an older person from a distance to visit you. Take your attachment with you on outside jaunts that you both will like.

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can really have a crazy-mixed day if you allow yourself the luxury of fooling between home and family, emotional and intellectual points of view and rescheduling activities.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Invite unusual and original friends into your home today. Doing something that entertains your attachment is vital at this time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Confusing circumstances with an unusually understanding friend requires much tact in handling. Now you will find your greatest happiness with your own clan.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You make out best by many forays into the outside world from your home. Take your attachment to visit other relatives, neighbours and friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Jaunts with friends and acquaintances now would be productive of good results. Invite relatives and neighbours into your home today.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Cheer up whoever is depressed beneath your roof. Be humorous. Take your attachment on a long anticipated journey, near or far.

VERGO (August 22 to September 22) A good time to add charm to and make your possessions more

valuable. Restlessness at home will be solved by taking a trip with friends.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 23) A charmer will show you a very happy time at a recreation. Now is the time to plan more exciting activities for the future with your attachment.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A day to see and be with as many good friends as possible. Invite fascinating women into your home and entertain them for a good time.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Being seen with important friends in public will now aid your public image. This is not yet the time to take part trip with your family you planned.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) A couple from a distance can help you very much with your duties. Now is the time to go on a jaunt with your attachment to places you both enjoy.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) A very extraordinary couple can now come into your life to fascinate you. A good day to entertain business contacts at your home.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Discussion between family and outside contacts can yield good results. Encourage your contacts with well organised friends.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 2-8

"I'm eating clam dip — seafood is good for my diet!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henn Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WETHA

LAIDY

GUYSAR

NIRGIF

THE HORSE YOU PUT YOUR MONEY ON OFTEN DOES THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the upside answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: DOUGH, GRAPE, PUMICE, WHALER

Yesterday's Jumble: DOUGH, GRAPE, PUMICE, WHALER

Answer: They used to call him the cream of fighters — until he got this — "WHIPPED"

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Polo team plays exhibition game

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Jordanian polo team and a visiting Brazilian professional team mixed their players into two teams of four and played a friendly game at Zarqa military camp Wednesday. The game was won by the team led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with a score of 11-3. The team had among its members another Jordanian player and two Brazilian players. Riders from both teams played a fast and open game in which both teams demonstrated high skills of riding and polo techniques.

Soccer match at University Stadium

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Life and Accident Insurance Co. soccer team will meet the Kuwaiti community soccer team in a friendly football match Thursday at the University Stadium in Amman at 3 p.m. This game is arranged jointly by the Kuwaiti Embassy and Arab Life and Accident Insurance Co., and it is the 3rd match to be played in a series between the company and diplomatic missions in Jordan.

2,000 hooligans known to police

ROME (AP) — Italy's interior minister told soccer authorities that about 2,000 hooligans are known to police and may be soon banned from stadiums as part of anti-violence measures before the World Cup. Antonio Gava, who met with Italian Soccer Federation officials in Rome Tuesday, also announced that the number of police mobilized at stadiums for league games will be increased to 15,000. The meeting was prompted by recent incidents, including the exhibition of banners bearing Nazi slogans, which stirred nationwide protests.

Italian unions protest WC deaths

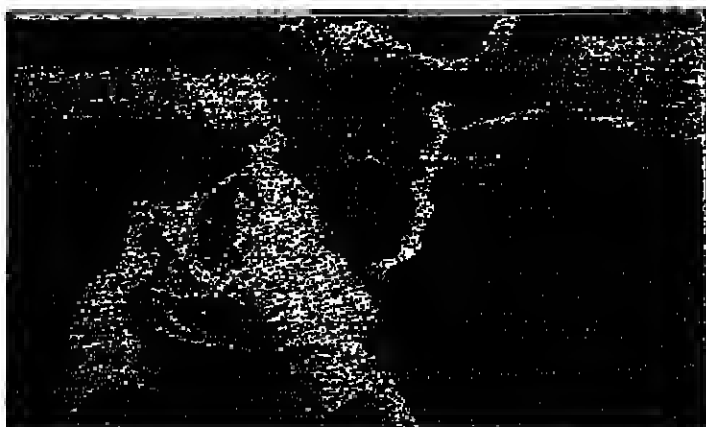
ROME (AP) — Italian labour unions said Tuesday they would stage a two-hour work stoppage to protest a series of fatal football accidents at World Cup sites. The unions blamed the accidents on hurried construction, noting that work schedules have been stepped up to meet the June deadline for the start of the world's top sporting event. The two-hour walkout was called for Monday. The unions also asked the Italian government to enforce safety regulations at the construction sites.

Thousands mourn basketball star

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 8,000 friends, family members and classmates gave basketball star Hank Gathers at final, thunderous ovation Tuesday on the same court where he played his last game. "Every time I pick up a basketball for the rest of my life, Hank will be there with me," said Bo Kimble, Gathers' friend and teammate at Loyola Marymount University. Gathers died Sunday after collapsing during a game. Less than 72 hours earlier, Gathers, one of college basketball's top scoring players, had collapsed on the court. He was pronounced dead less than two hours later in a nearby hospital. Gathers, who fainted during a game on Dec. 3 and was diagnosed as having an irregular heart beat, was 23. The cause of death has not yet been determined.

Chang's return delayed

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Michael Chang pulled out of the one-million-dollar champions cup tennis tournament Tuesday after suffering pains in the left hip that fractured in December. Chang made his comeback a week ago in Memphis, Tennessee, but lost in the first round. The 18-year-old American, who is ranked seventh in the world, practiced at Indian Wells over the weekend but recurring hip pains forced him to withdraw.



Stefan Edberg

Edberg encouraged by easy win

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Stefan Edberg, who had not won a match since being forced to default during the Australian Open final in January, boosted his confidence Tuesday with an easy victory in the Champions Cup.

The Swedish second seed cruised past unseeded American Scott Davis 6-3, 6-2 after receiving a bye in the first round of the one-million-dollar tennis tournament.

In his only other outing since pulling a stomach muscle against Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl in the Australian Open final, he lost in the first round last week at Memphis, Tennessee.

"It was an important match for me," said Edberg. "I wanted this win badly. It's nice to win a match and get back to playing matches again."

One seed was upset when number 12 Andres Gomez of Ecuador was beaten by Australia's Darren Cahill 7-5, 6-4.

American Pete Sampras, the 13th seed who injured his thumb in a doubles match Monday, had no trouble in his first round match, defeating India's Ramesh Krishnan 6-3, 6-2.

Edberg's serve and volley game was sharp against Davis, who likes to play a similar style. Edberg forced Davis into errors in the first set, breaking him in the eighth game with a back-ground pass. Edberg served out the set with a crisp volley to take it 6-3.

Davis lacked spirit in the second set, dropping his opening service game when he missed an overhead.

Netherlands faces World Cup without Gullit

By Andrew Warshaw
The Associated Press

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands — With the World Cup just three months away, Dutch soccer fans are beginning to face up to the possibility of being without their best player, Ruud Gullit.

"Life without Gullit? That's no life," said Ruud Mascini, a 46-year-old teacher and one of thousands of Dutchmen praying that the gifted AC Milan forward shakes off a knee injury in time to take his place on the squad for the finals beginning June 8.

"He has a radiation that no other player has," Mascini said. "He was responsible for us getting to Italy. Without him, I can't see us winning."

Mascini was one of about 30,000 fans who watched last week's dull match in Rotterdam between the Netherlands and World Cup host Italy, which ended in a scoreless tie.

With ace Dutch striker Marco van Basten marked out of the game by the Italian defense, the Netherlands' attack lacked imagination and only once threatened to break the deadlock when Jan Wouters thumped a 20-metre shot against the post early in the second half.

The Dutch team, featuring nine members of the unit that won the 1988 European championship, couldn't get behind an Italian backline that was missing sweeper Franco Baresi but still coped easily.

Dutch assistant coach Nol de Ruiter said he was disappointed with his team's performance and indicated that with Gullit in the squad things might have been different.

"I'm not willing to speak about Gullit because he needs rest," de Ruiter said. "But with Gullit, we can play the long pass from the back more often, and vary the play."

De Ruiter said he did not know whether Gullit, out of action since last June, would be fit for the World Cup finals. Although he has resumed light training after his third knee operation, Gullit awaits a doctor's approval before he can kick a ball.

Gullit has said recently that he almost certainly will miss the finals.

Fans leave no doubt how much the half-Surinamese forward with the flowing dreadlocks means to them.

"He is the image of Holland," said Luc Raaff, a 21-year-old law student. "He has an aura that he brings to the people."

"Even if he just makes the squad but doesn't play, that's a big psychological boost for the players," said Frans Saris, a 43-year-old medical worker who has been watching the national team "since I was a baby."

As he entered the stadium filled to only half its 60,000 capacity, Saris looked around him. "If Gullit was playing, the place would be full," he said. "There wouldn't be a seat left. That's the sort of guy he is."

Gullit's impact on Dutch society is not restricted to his incisive passing, flowing runs and sharp shooting on the field.

His love of popular music — he used to have his own rock band — endears him to Dutch youth, while his strong anti-apartheid views attract considerable interest in a country which prides itself on freedom of speech and fair play.

"He's a symbol for black people of the struggle for a less racist society," said Peter Hermes, general coordinator of Holland's anti-apartheid movement.

"When Gullit won the Footballer of the Year Award a few years ago, he donated it to Nelson Mandela. That had a lot of publicity in the Netherlands."

Last week's warmup game against Italy will have done little to worry the Netherlands' main World Cup group rivals, England and Ireland. Egypt completes the group.

But with exhibition games still to come against the Soviet Union, Austria and Yugoslavia before the finals, the Dutch team still hopes to prove that winning is possible, even without Gullit.

Some aren't so sure. "Gullit is the difference between winning and losing," Mascini said. "He's a big man in every sense of the word. He feels things on the field that no one else notices."

The Orthodoxi steps up preparations for the Arab Basketball championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Orthodoxi Club stepped up its preparations for hosting the Arab Clubs Basketball Championship to be held in Amman in the first week of May under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

The Orthodoxi Club has formed the assisting committees for the upper organizing committee, which is chaired by His Highness Prince Ghazi Ibn Mohammad, president of the Jordanian Basketball Federation.

This championship is the fifth for men and the first for women. The first championship for men was held in Damascus in 1978. The Orthodoxi club came second in that championship.

The first approval to participate in the championship, to be held in the Orthodoxi hall, came from the Syrian Basketball Federation. The Syrian federation named Al Itihad Al Halabi to represent it in the men's championship, and Al Thawra of Damascus in the women's championship.

Ten teams are expected to take part in the men's championship, while only five are expected in the women's championship.

Chairman of the championship's executive committee Raja'i Sukkar said that the Orthodoxi Club is intending to invite prominent figures from the Basketball International Federation to attend the championship which is hosted by Jordan for the first time.

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Egypt, Cameroon out of African Cup

ALGERIA (AP) — Egypt and Cameroon, the only African teams headed to the World Cup final round, were the first teams eliminated in the African Nations Cup this week.

Cameroon, the defending champion, was knocked out of contention Tuesday night when it lost to Senegal, 2-0.

Both Egypt and Cameroon are winless and scoreless in their first two games, and cannot qualify for the semifinals even if they win their final games in the round-robin tournament on Thursday.

With their eyes on Italy, neither team was expected to make a major impact in Algeria. For a time, it was uncertain whether Egypt would compete at all.

Egypt heads into a game against Algeria on Thursday worried about the security of its players. Tensions are high because of last November's World Cup qualifying match in Cairo, which Egypt won, 1-0. After that match, an Algerian player reportedly got into a hotel brawl in which an Egyptian doctor lost an eye.

As a result, Egyptian officials first decided to boycott the tournament in Algeria, citing security concerns. Last Friday they reversed that decision and opted to send a second-string team.

However, in Monday night's Egypt-Nigeria match at Algiers, Egyptian players were bombarded with sticks and stones. The African Soccer Federation fined the Algerian organizers \$6,000 for the incidents.

Security is to be beefed up for Thursday's match between Algeria and Egypt in Algiers, although Algeria has already qualified for the semifinal round from its group. The winner of the Ivory Coast-Nigeria contest also will advance to the semifinal.

In the other four-team group, Zambia is already in the semifinal round, with the final spot to be disputed between Kenya and Senegal.

Senegal beat defending champion Cameroon, 2-0, to eliminate the "indomitable lions" but the ouster did not seem to bother Cameroon's players.

Kuwait wins Gulf Cup

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait beat Qatar 2-0 Wednesday to win the Gulf Cup soccer tournament for a record seventh time, displacing Iraq as the local champions.

Kuwait plays 1990 World Cup finalists United Arab Emirates (UAE) Friday but this will not affect the result, although a UAE victory could give it second place in the six-nation meeting.

Either Kuwait or Qatar could have carried off the cup on Wednesday after Iraq pulled out of the competition last Saturday.

Rashid Bdaiah opened the scoring for Kuwait with a flying header from a Nasser Mubarak corner in the 22nd minute.

Mohammed Ibrahim ended Qatar's hopes of winning the cup for the first time when he robbed goalkeeper Younis Ahmed and prodded the ball into the net in the 61st minute.

The biennial tournament, first held in Bahrain in 1970, has been marred by controversies.

The Iraqis pulled out of the tournament in protest over the referee's decisions to send off a defender during a tied match with the UAE.

Saudi Arabia refused even to participate because it found offensive the original tournament mascot — two legendary stallion ridden by Kuwaiti warriors through a Saudi siege about 70 years ago.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
©1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TRIAL BY JURY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

5 killed, 500 injured in Bophuthatswana unrest

Riots flare in 2nd S. African homeland

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Police shot and killed five people and injured hundreds more Wednesday when protesters burned government buildings and unrest in South Africa's homelands spread to a second territory, news reports said.

Police using rifles and tear gas guns battled up to 50,000 protesters in the nominally independent homeland of Bophuthatswana when the demonstrators tried to stage a march to demand the reintegration of the homeland into South Africa.

Protesters set fire to public buildings and vehicles in Garankuwa in the homeland north of Johannesburg, local officials said.

The independent South African Press Association quoted hospital officials as saying that five people were killed by gunfire and up to 500 other people suffered various injuries. The sound of gunfire and fighting was heard in several areas, the news agency reported.

Protesters called for the resignation of homeland President Lucas Mangope and waved placards denouncing his government.

All government offices and many businesses, shops and schools in the area were closed,

officials said. Many protesters hijacked buses to take them to the march, and people stayed away from work or school to support the protests, the official said.

A military takeover in the Indian Ocean homeland of Ciskei Sunday ended 18 years of hard rule by President Lennox Sebe, one of the most repressive of the homeland rulers.

Hospital sources said the death toll in Ciskei from unrest since the coup had risen to 27 from 20 in the past 24 hours.

The deaths occurred when crowds celebrating the overthrow of Sebe, widely seen as a puppet of Pretoria, looted businesses and industrial premises linked to his family and associates.

Witnesses in Bophuthatswana, which is split into seven areas dotted around Transvaal province, said the violence in an eastern section of the homeland began during an anti-government protest March by tens of thousands of demonstrators.

Commonly called "Bop", Bophuthatswana is best known for its gambling and entertainment complex at Sun City, which is in a western section of the homeland where Mangope has his headquarters.

Mangope told South Africa television Tuesday evening he would "never in 100 years" agree to call for his resignation or for the reincorporation of Bophuthatswana into South Africa.

Black nationalist organisations such as the African National Congress (ANC), the main organisation fighting white rule, have repeatedly demanded that South Africa's 10 tribal homelands be abolished along with other aspects of apartheid.

The territories, home for 16 million of South Africa's 27 million blacks, were set up forcibly under Pretoria's "grand apartheid" vision of separate development.

Their administrations, widely seen by blacks as puppets of Pretoria, are heavily subsidised by the South African government.

The Bophuthatswana army staged a coup in 1988, but South

Africans sent in troops and blocked the overthrow of the government.

The Ciskei military government, which seized power Sunday in a bloodless coup, declared a state of emergency and asked for South African troops to end rioting that left at least 27 people dead and 550 injured.

Brig.-Gen. Oupa Gqozo, head of the new military government, said Sebe would be arrested if he attempted to return to Ciskei. Sebe was on a trade mission in Hong Kong when the military took over.

Ciskei industrialists said looting and arson that followed the coup had severely damaged the economy and would result in the loss of up to 10,000 jobs. Ray Brentnall, head of the Ciskei Chamber of Industries, said rioting caused damage worth millions of U.S. dollars, but he did not give any overall figure.

"People are very upset. After sweating blood to build up their businesses it's heartbreaking to see them go up in flames," he said.

The coup by the Ciskei army, was hailed by most people, who detested the authoritarian Sebe government.

Thailand to create neutral refugee camps

BANGKOK (AP) — A senior Western aid official Wednesday welcomed the government's decision to establish a neutral camp for more than 275,000 Cambodian refugees now living in camps controlled by three guerrilla groups.

Under the Thai government's plan, the guerrilla-controlled camps are to be closed and the refugees sent to the neutral facility in preparation for their return home when the 11-year-old war in Cambodia ends.

The deputy government spokesman, Likhit Hongladarom, said the cabinet made the decision at its weekly meeting Tuesday.

Likhit said a neutral camp was needed because the refugees have caused numerous problems for Thailand.

"The Thai government is not happy with the situation and has therefore decided to close all refugee centres and to replace them with a neutral camp, which is to be set up with United Nations cooperation in the form of an assistance budget to feed the refugees."

The United Nations border relief operation and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, which aid the camps along Thailand's eastern border with Cambodia, have long favoured establishing a neutral facility. This, they said, would ensure that the refugees would not be forcibly repatriated by the guerrillas, or pressured to go to certain areas of their homeland.

"We welcome the idea of starting the preparations for repatriation," said the senior aid official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But he warned that guerrilla leaders may not like it and could respond by quickening their own repatriation of the refugees, without the supervision of the United Nations. Aid officials say thousands of civilians under Khmer Rouge guerrilla control have been moved out of the refugee camps in recent months and resettled in strategic areas.

The aid official theorised that the Thai were disappointed by the failure of the Cambodian peace talks in Indonesia last week, and were using the neutral camp proposal to pressure the guerrillas into greater flexibility.

The refugee camps were established shortly after Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and ousted the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, sending hundreds of thousands of people fleeing to the Thai border.

A coalition of three guerrilla groups — the Khmer Rouge, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk — have used the camps for military recruitment and to back their claims to have a popular following.

Moscow seeks \$33b for Lithuanian independence

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has told Lithuania how much it owes Moscow and hinted repayment of billions of roubles might be the price for independence, Vilnius Radio reported.

It said Gorbachev had unexpected talks with Algirdas Brazauskas, the head of the Baltic republic's parliament, in Moscow Tuesday.

The broadcast said Moscow estimated Lithuania owed the central government 17 billion roubles (\$27 billion) for capital investment in the republic and four billion roubles (\$6 billion) for undelivered production.

The independence drive in Lithuania which, like its Baltic neighbours Estonia and Latvia, was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940, has prompted calls for monetary compensation by the government in Moscow.

Radio Vilnius, broadcasting from the Lithuanian capital, said: "Mikhail Gorbachev is believed to have tried to intimidate Lithuania for the last time before the new Supreme Soviet (parliament) embarks upon its activity."

The Lithuanian pro-independence movement Sajudis, which holds most seats in the republic's newly-elected parliament, meets in Vilnius Thursday to map out its strategy for a parliamentary session expected to open Sunday.

Some members of Sajudis have been pressing for the parliamentary session to go ahead and declare independence before the expanded national parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, meets in Moscow Monday.

The Congress will discuss increasing Gorbachev's powers and many Lithuanians fear he could use these to stop their independence drive.

The government newspaper Izvestia said Tuesday: "Those who advocate Lithuania's withdrawal from the USSR and say that it owes nothing to anybody, will have to heed the terms to be put by the centre, while the centre will have to take into consideration the demands of the republic."

India reports smashing militant group in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Muslim militants ambushed a vehicle carrying paramilitary troops during curfew relaxation Wednesday and killed one soldier, state Gov. Jagmohan said.

The attack came amid government claims that it has smashed a major militant group, one of the 30 Muslim organisations fighting for the secession of the Kashmir Valley from Hindu-dominated India.

Jagmohan, the top administrator of Jammu-Kashmir state, said two soldiers were injured in the ambush.

In a separate incident, militants shot and killed a Muslim alleged to be a police informer, he said.

The deaths raised to 163 the number of people killed in the volatile Muslim-dominated region since Jan. 20, when security forces cracked down on the secessionist movement.

Muslim snipers and paramilitary troops exchanged gunfire in three other places in Srinagar, the largest town in the valley and the focal point of the rebellion, during a five-hour relaxation of curfew Wednesday, Jagmohan said. There were no casualties in the

gun battles. The curfew relaxation, which began at 5 a.m. (2330 GMT Tuesday), was ordered to allow people in the city of 1 million to shop for food and other essentials.

Jagmohan, a Hindu who uses one name, was appointed the state governor of Jammu-Kashmir on Jan. 18 in an attempt by the government to control the growing unrest.

On Wednesday, he said security forces had "neutralised" the Hizbul Mujahideen, one of the militant organisations functioning in the valley.

The Hizbul Mujahideen, or Party of the Holy Islamic Warriors, is believed to be the most powerful secessionist group in the valley after the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front.

Jagmohan said at least 12 ranking militants of the organisation had been arrested in Srinagar and the border towns of Baramulla and Kupwara since Sunday. He did not say if any militants were killed.

U.S. to work for quick end to Angolan conflict

LUANDA, Angola (AP) — A top State Department official has said the United States will work for a speedy negotiated end to the 14-year civil war, but continue to arm the UNITA rebel movement in the meantime, the Angolan News Agency (Angop) reported.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen was in Luanda to act as observer at the sixth meeting of a commission set up to verify a 1988

regional peace accord signed in New York by Angola, South Africa and Cuba.

He said the United States would try to prevent further UNITA attacks on Cuban troops withdrawing from Angola, according to the Angop report.

Four Cubans were killed January in a rebel raid, causing Havana to halt an evacuation of its 50,000 soldiers backing the government in the civil war.

Cash offered for Kuwaitis to marry Kuwaitis

KUWAITI (R) — The government is offering cash to encourage courting couples to marry, as long as both the bride and groom are Kuwaitis. The government will give the newly-weds 3,000 dinars (\$10,200) in grants and soft loans as part of an effort launched in 1986 to raise the number of Kuwaitis to 50 per cent of the population by the year 2000.

"The main reason is to encourage Kuwaitis to marry Kuwaitis," an official at the savings and credit bank said Wednesday. Officials said the bank was ordered by the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to offer Kuwaiti couples a \$3,400 grant and a \$6,800 soft loan. Citizens married to non-Kuwaitis who want to take a Kuwaiti wife were also eligible to apply for the funds, they said.

Islam is the religion of Kuwait and Muslim men can marry up to four wives. A Kuwaiti male can only collect the money once, the bankers said. Only about 700,000 of the emirate's 1.8 million population are Kuwaitis. The rest are mainly expatriate workers from other Arab states, India, Pakistan and Western countries.

Scientists push back Doomsday Clock

CHICAGO (AP) — The Doomsday Clock on the cover of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists was set back Tuesday to reflect reduced superpower tensions. For two years the clock has read just six minutes to midnight. It was moved back four minutes to 10 minutes before midnight. The resetting of the clock reflects the Bulletin's determination that recent revolutionary changes in Eastern Europe have significantly reduced the risk of global nuclear war, officials said Tuesday.

"Now, 44 years after Winston Churchill's 'iron curtain' speech, the myth of monolithic communism has been shattered for all to see, the ideological conflict known as the cold war is over," says an editorial in the Bulletin's April issue, which is to be published March 12. The editorial was released at the magazine's headquarters on the University of Chicago campus, site of the first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction during World War II. The clock's hands last moved in 1983, when they shifted back from three minutes before the hour. The clock first appeared on the June 1947 Bulletin cover as a symbol of impending apocalypse and of the potential for military attack. It came closest to midnight — just two minutes away — in 1953, after the United States successfully tested the hydrogen bomb.

Company loses Einstein film

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — Nearly 1,200 metres of film on Albert Einstein that was part of the University of South Carolina's Movietone collection fell out of a delivery truck and has been missing for a week, officials say. "From a historical standpoint, it is absolutely irreplaceable," said Don McCallister, assistant archivist for the university's News Film Library.

"I can't really put a dollar value on it. How do you put a dollar value on something that cannot be replaced?" The film, which has historical value to researchers, shows Einstein appearing at various events during the 1930s. The university was sending the film, which was packed in a fiberboard carton, to Audio Plus Video International in Northvale, New Jersey, so it could be copied onto videotape for a French filmmaker, McCallister said. On Feb. 27, a delivery truck carrying the film left the Federal Express office in Columbia.

Global weather (major world cities)

MIN. MAX. °C °F

AMSTERDAM... 04 38 17 63 Clear

ATHENS... 17 24 75 Clear

BANGKOK... 23 33 81 Clear

Buenos Aires... 15 24 75 Clear

CAIRO... 08 48 17 63 Cloudy

CHICAGO... 05 27 00 32 Rain

COPENHAGEN... 05 41 06 43 Cloudy

FRANKFURT... 04 11 06 51 Clear

GENEVA... 05 28 48 Clear

HONG KONG... 14 27 20 69 Clear

ISTANBUL... 03 17 11 52 Clear

LONDON... 09 49 13 55 Cloudy

LOS ANGELES... 09 21 69 Rain

MADRID... 04 39 15 51 Clear

MELBOURNE... 23 31 88 Cloudy

MONTREAL... 17 01 09 18 Clear

MOSCOW... M M M M

MUMBAI... 11 25 77 Clear

NEW YORK... 03 28 00 32 Clear

PARIS... 06 46 11 52 Cloudy

ROME... 01 50 18 64 Clear

SYDNEY... 16 21 72 Rain

TOKYO... 06 43 15 50 Clear

VIENNA... M M M M

M - indicates missing information.

Contra issue dominates Nicaraguan transition

MANAGUA (R) — The issue of the contra rebels' return to Nicaragua took on deeper urgency when they proposed returning, armed, to secure enclaves and the outgoing government asked that they be pressured to disband.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the architect of the Central American peace plan, meanwhile said the contras should be demobilised as soon as possible so the Sandinistas had "no great pretext" to renege on promises to hand over power.

Arias spoke in Liberia, Costa Rica after meeting Nicaraguan President-Elect Violeta Chamorro, who is to succeed Sandinista President Daniel Ortega on April 25.

Honduras-based contra rebels told envoys of Chamorro and Catholic Church officials Tuesday they want to return to enclaves inside Nicaragua and remain armed until her new government could guarantee their safety, a contra leader said.

Contra Commander Pepe Matus also said the rebels proposed inviting observers from the

United Nations, the Organisation of American States "and any other serious organisation that wants to participate" to oversee the enclaves.

Both Chamorro and Ortega have urged the immediate demobilisation of the U.S.-backed contras, and Ortega Tuesday asked why the United States and Honduras were not pressing for the contras to disband.

He said the United States had a great responsibility for the contras since it created, armed and financed their eight-year war against his Sandinista government.

"Why does the U.S. president delay in ordering the transfer of funds that the contras are receiving to the United Nations and Organisation of American States so that these bodies... can work for the immediate demobilisation of the contras?" Ortega told a meeting of the Inter-American Press Association here.

"Why does the Honduran government delay in taking a firm decision to expel the contras from its territory?" he asked.

Enrile launches attack on Philippine government

MANILA (R) — Philippine opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile, accused of involvement in a coup attempt, launched a sharp attack against President Corason Aquino's government Wednesday, a day after being freed from prison on bail.

The former defence minister, jailed last week on rebellion and murder charges, said prices in the Philippines were rising rapidly and the value of the national currency was being eroded.

He also said there were worsening energy and water shortages and accused the government of doing little to curb corruption.

Enrile, accused of involvement in a coup attempt against Aquino last December, denied in an address to the senate that he was doing anything to undermine the government.

"I am not going to do any mischief. I have never done any mischief against the administration other than to be like Socrates in old Athens, to be a gadfly to the government," the 66-year-old senate minority floor leader said.

"I assure you I shall not be a mischievous senator to the republic to the point of causing our democratic condition to be lost," he added.

The supreme court Tuesday rejected government advice and set Enrile free on bail pending its consideration of the validity of the charge. Defence lawyers say the charge does not legally exist.

Philippine newspapers Wednesday said the supreme court ruling was an initial setback for Aquino's government, which argued that Enrile would be free to plot against her if he was granted bail.

But politicians and commentators largely welcomed the decision, saying it proved the independence of the judiciary under Aquino, in contrast to the manipulated legal system that existed under the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Following the court's decision, retired army General Felix Brawner, also charged with rebellion for his alleged involvement in the December coup attempt, gave himself up Wednesday.

Peking mayor does not fear renewed unrest

PEKING (R) — Peking's hard-line mayor said Wednesday he did not fear a new outbreak of political unrest this year because the Communist Party could crush any opposition.

Chen Xitong, an ally of the Orthodox Marxists who seized control of the Communist Party from reformers after massive unrest last year, said the Chinese capital was stable despite occasional signs of dissent.

"We are not worried," he said at his first meeting with foreign reporters since the bloody crackdown last June on a pro-democracy campaign.

"Last year's counter-revolutionary rebellion was resolutely opposed by the vast majority of the Chinese people. If the people did not support us, we would not have been able to put down the counter-revolutionary rebellion so quickly," he said.

"I can tell you frankly that under the leadership of the Communist Party, we have the ability

to smash and put an end to any big or even little outbreak of unrest," he said.

Peking called in the army on June 3 and 4 to crush student-led demonstrations that had brought as many as one million people into the streets.

Communist hardliners toppled reformist party chief Zhao Ziyang from power, undoing many of the economic reforms he had spearheaded.

Martial law, imposed in Peking shortly before the army moved in, was lifted in January but security around the city has remained tight.

Students, who led last year's protests, have said the anniversary of major rallies, such as May 4, or the army crackdown, could be flashpoints for a new round of unrest.

"The counter-revolutionary rebellion damaged our legal system. But Peking is stable now," said Chen.

Speaking to foreign reporters more than nine months after the crackdown, he was still unable to give more details of casualties or say how many people had been arrested, tried or executed.

China's leaders have said about 300 people, including dozens of soldiers, were killed during the unrest. But Western human-rights groups and foreign diplomats have estimated the death toll could have been in the low thousands.

A senior Peking court official said 84 per cent of the court cases linked to unrest had been reviewed.

But no precise figures were given nor has there been any word of the fate of prominent figures such as student leader Wang Dan, reporter Dai Qing or human-rights activist Ren Wandong. All are known to have been arrested.

Asked for a more complete account, Chen said: "We are still

investigating." Pressed further by an American reporter about the delay, he replied there were still unresolved questions about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

"You still don't know who killed President Kennedy, do you? We are investigating, too," he said.

The mayor, who has repeatedly said China will not shut off links with the outside world, was also asked about harassment of Chinese who have contact with foreigners in Peking.

In some cases, Chinese have been detained by police solely for maintaining contact with foreigners. Foreign reporters in Peking last week protested to the Foreign Ministry against official harassment.

"This is a completely different matter than from the open policy," he said. "If anyone was arrested, it was because he committed a crime."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

NATO cancels major exercise

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO has cancelled a major military exercise because free elections are being held in East Germany, which it designated as a springboard for a Warsaw Pact attack on the West. The exercise envisaged the Soviet-led Pact forces launching an attack from East German territory, but the Western alliance said Wednesday the operation was inappropriate with elections there just days away. Exercise "Crested Eagle" is a communications exercise and involves between 7,000 and 9,000 staff, although no combat troops. Held every two years, it had been scheduled for March 22-26. East Germany held its first free elections on March 18. A spokesman for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons confirmed that the exercise had been cancelled.

Mongolian activists start hunger strike

PEKING (R) — Twelve Mongolian democracy activists began a hunger strike in Ulan Bator's central Wednesday after authorities rejected demands that hundreds of Communist Party officials resign, witnesses said. Ulan Bator residents contacted by telephone said the twelve were leaders of the Mongolian Democratic Association, the biggest of four newly-formed groups calling for an end to the country's 69-year-old Communist system. "They said they will starve to death if the government does not respond reasonably to their demands," said one Mongolian-speaking foreign resident who spoke to the strikers.

U.N. to monitor human rights in Cuba

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations has decided to continue monitoring human rights in Cuba, in a vote seen by the United

States as further isolating one of the world's last Communist strongholds.

The 43-member human rights commission adopted a resolution asking President Fidel Castro's government to honour its pledge not to harass Cubans who testified to a U.N. committee which visited the island in September 1988. The U.S.-sponsored resolution, adopted by 19 votes, within 12 against and 12 abstentions, also asked U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar keep the commission informed of contacts with the Cuban government about human rights on the island. Those voting in favour of the text, which stopped short of condemning Cuba, included former allies such as Hungary and Bulgaria who have moved away from Communist rule. Observers, including Cuba's former allies Poland and Czechoslovakia, said they supported the resolution which asked Havana to report to next year's commission meeting on steps it is taking to improve its human rights record.

S. Korea finds booby traps in tunnel

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea stopped exploring a newly discovered border tunnel allegedly dug by Communist North Korea after encountering booby traps and water, military officials said Wednesday. Defence Ministry officials said that U.S. and South Korean teams were draining the shaft after plugging it up with sandbags for protection. At least 10 booby traps have been discovered in the tunnel since a dog working with inspection teams was killed in an explosion Sunday, apparently after setting off a booby trap, they said. No soldiers have been injured so far, but military officials said they were taking a careful approach in searching the tunnel, opened last Saturday through an intercept tunnel dug from the southern sector of the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas.

Handwritten note in Arabic script.